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COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS

North Carolina College for Negroes was given Class "A" rating by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in April, having met all requirements except that dealing with salaries.

Southern university at Baton Rouge, La., was also given a Class "A" rating by the same Association.

In April, Dr. Sherman D. Scruggs, supervisor of Negro schools of Kansas City, Kans., was elected president of **Lincoln university (Mo.)** by the board of curators.

Dr. H. B. Crouch, head of **Kentucky State College's** division of arts and sciences has been elected to full active membership in the Kentucky Academy of Science.

Wilberforce university's trustees have approved Pres. D. O. Walker's suggestion that each teacher must definitely promote religious life at the institution and attend religious services. A clause to that effect will be inserted in all contracts.

Morgan College's new $226,700 library is in course of erection. Maryland gave $100,000, Morgan gave $24,685 and the PWA paid the rest.

The building is a fireproof stone, steel and concrete structure of two stories.

Bennett College held its 12th annual home making institute from April 18 to 24, with Dr. Flemmie P. Kittrell as director. There were many noted speakers.

Rev. Clarence E. McFadden, alumnus of Morehouse and the Rochester Theological Seminary, has joined the faculty of the School of Religion of **Morehouse College.**

Howard University plans to offer for the 1938-39 academic year 83 free tuition scholarships to needy but exceptional students. These scholarships, maximum $150, are for those enrolling in the College of Liberal Arts, School of Engineering and Architecture, and the School of Music. Applications should be made to Prof. Max Meenes, chairman of the committee on scholarship and student aid.

Prof. Doxey A. Wilkerson has been appointed director of the **Howard University** Summer School for 1938. He was Associate Professor of Education and succeeds Dr. Charles H. Wesley who is acting dean of the Graduate School and Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

West Virginia State College faculty has adopted a core curriculum for first and second year students who may now elect three basic survey courses: Social Science Survey 101-102, Physical Science Survey 101-102, and Arts Survey 201-202.

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered the anniversary address at **Hampton Institute** on April 21.

The 4th annual meeting of the National Association of Personnel Deans and Advisers of Men in Negro Educa-

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tional Institutions was held at **Shaw University**, April 28-30. Distinguished educators spoke.

Spelman College, the first institution of college rank open to Negro women, celebrated its 57th anniversary on April 11.

Storer College's Anthony Memorial Hall, recently damaged by fire, has been completely repaired and is much improved in appearance. New fire equipment has been installed at the college.

Summer school at **Atlanta University** will extend from June 13 to July 22, under the direction of John P. Whitaker. The seven colleges in Atlanta will again be affiliated in the conduct of the school.

"Country Life Stories," by Elizabeth P. Cannon and Helen A. Whiting, is the country's first book written by Negro educators to meet the specific needs of children and teachers in the rural Negro communities of the South. First copies were displayed in April at the N.E.A. meeting in Atlantic City. Miss Cannon is connected with the Dept. of Education of **Spelman College** and **Atlanta University**, while Miss Whiting is state supervisor of colored elementary schools in Georgia.

The National Association of Deans of Women and Advisers of Girls in Negro schools was held April 21-23 at **Tuskegee Institute.**

The A.M.E. **Paul Quinn College** at Waco, Texas, is seeking to obtain a ranking as a 4-year college by September. Paul Quinn has taken on new life under the presidency of Dr. A. S. Jackson.

The General Education Board has given **Atlanta University** a collection of 60 phonograph records of authentic Negro spirituals and secular songs.

On the April 9 weekend, 75 representatives from seven white and one Negro colleges attended the fourth annual spring conference of the Central Missouri Youth Christian Association held at **Lincoln University (Mo.)**

Prominent white hotel men, including Thomas D. Green, president of the American Hotel Association, visited **Tuskegee Institute's** School of Commercial Dietetics, and were greatly impressed.

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The Rural School bill introduced in the Kentucky legislature by **C. W. Anderson** (colored), Representative from Louisville, was passed by the General Assembly in April. It provides high school service within the county for all children of high school grade.

Nationally famous speakers addressed the 57th annual session of the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association at **North Carolina College for Negroes,** April 14-16.

A third teacher salary suit has been filed in Prince George County, Md. It is backed by the colored teachers of the State and conducted by Thurgood Marshall, assistant special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P.

The Virginia State Teachers Association has so far raised $2,600 to initiate legal action in that State to equalize salaries of white and colored teachers.

Washington, D. C., will spend $673,150 for the building program for Negro schools during fiscal year ending June 30, 1939.

Emporia, Kan., colored folk recently voted "No" against a proposal to establish separate elementary public schools for Negroes.

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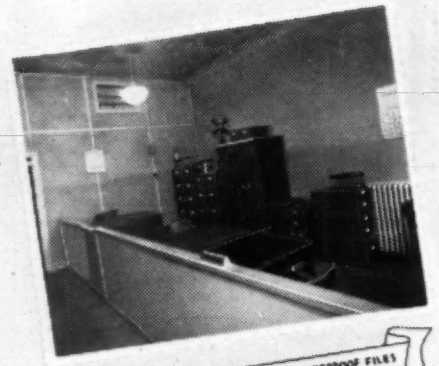

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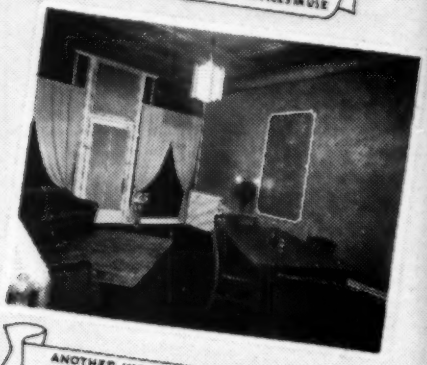

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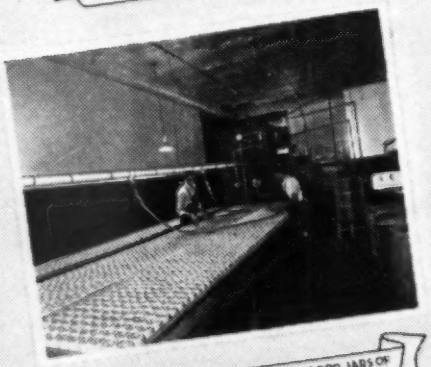

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Volume 45, No. 5 *Whole No. 329*

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Josh Gibson, catcher for the Pittsburgh Crawfords
(Photo courtesy Amsterdam News)

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THE CRISIS *was founded in 1910. It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is $1.50 a year or 15c a copy. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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NEXT MONTH—AND LATER

The special Diamond Jubilee of Negro Freedom Number of THE CRISIS will be the regular July issue, out about June 22. It will contain more pages than the usual issue because there will be special articles dealing with the progress of colored people, and additional advertising.

The August issue will be the 27th annual Education number. It will have special articles on education and the usual pictures and news of college graduates. Pictures and information must be in THE CRISIS office not later than July 5.

An early issue will have a new story by Octavia B. Wynbush. Soon, also will appear another article by G. James Fleming on the duPonts of Delaware and their relation to the Negro life of their state.

There will be a short sketch next month of Edward Matthews, the young baritone who is now on a concert and radio tour of South America.

The series on the Negro press will be resumed with an article on The Call, published in Kansas City, Mo.

The delayed material on U. S. senators and how they voted on various motions in connection with the anti-lynching bill fight will be in the June issue.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

H. B. Webber is a well known newspaperman and Oliver Brown is business manager of the Newark, N. J., *Herald*.

•

Albert L. Hinton is city editor of the Norfolk, Va., *Journal and Guide*.

•

Katherine F. O'Brien is librarian in charge of the Cedar branch of the Cleveland, O., public library.

•

Raphael Knight does publicity for the Federal Theatre Project in New York City.

•

Dr. Anna J. Cooper is the well known educator of Washington, D. C.

Play Ball!

By H. B. Webber and Oliver Brown

May 14 will see the opening of the organized Negro baseball season. Here is a bit of history and a few comments on the national game

ONE MILLION baseball fans in eastern and western cities watch 15 teams in the two major Negro leagues play organized baseball each year from May 15 until September 15 and in these months they see batters as great as Babe Ruth and pitchers more colorful, and skillful as Dizzy Dean, or Lefty Gomez.

These 15 teams spend on an average of over a half million dollars a season in overhead, salaries, publicity, the finest of uniforms, and transportation. Each maintains spring training camps in the South just as the major leagues do. The two leagues meet regularly, trade players, make outright purchases of players, decide on regulation balls to use, experience "hold-outs" and duplicate the activities of the majors in practically every detail—to such an extent that both weekly and daily newspapers throughout the country have insisted that top-notchers in the colored leagues be taken into the big leagues.

And such names as Leon Day, Satchell Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Willie Wells, Johnny Taylor, Newt Allen, Chet Brewer, Sammy Bankhead, Josh Gibson, Ted Strong, Turkey Stearns, Andy Cooper, Mule Suttles, Streak Milton, Floyd Kranson, Alex Radcliffe, Ray Perkins, Biz Mackey, Slim Jones, Jud Harris, Red Redus, and Terris McDuffie may be one day as familiar to the white baseball fans of the nation as they are to the million colored fans today.

Three years ago a number of men with money turned their attention toward Negro baseball. Among these was Gus Greenlee of Pittsburgh who was destined to exert a tremendous influence over baseball in the years to follow. In 1934 Greenlee headed the move to organize the Negro National League. This league was composed of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Homestead Grays, Newark Dodgers, Nashville Elite Giants, Philadelphia Stars, Cleveland Red Sox, Chicago American Giants, Bacharach Giants, and the Baltimore Black Sox.

Despite many handicaps and reverses, the league was able to complete the first years successfully. In 1935 the Brooklyn Eagles and the New York Cubans became members while the Cleveland Red Sox, Baltimore Black Sox, and the Bacharach Giants dropped out. Only a few changes have taken place in the league since the first year with the exception of the granting and transferring of franchises. In 1936 the Brooklyn Eagles took over the Newark Franchise and became the Newark Eagles; Nashville Elite Giants moved into Washington; the Black Yankees became a member and the Chicago American Giants disbanded.

Season Opens May 14

Last year the league operated with six teams and this season, which opens May 14, will see eight teams representing Washington, Baltimore, New York, Newark, Pittsburgh, Homestead, Pa., Buffalo and Philadelphia competing.

Last season a group of baseball men in the West organized the American Negro Baseball League and completed a most successful and encouraging season. Baseball interest, which had been on the wane for several years, was revived and the league looks forward to making money in the second year of operation. Both leagues have a working agreement on players and will also be under the jurisdiction of one commissioner. At the conclusion of this season's league schedule, a World Series will be staged between the winning teams of the respective leagues.

In the American league are H. G. Hall's Chicago American Giants, J. L. Wilkinson's Kansas City Monarchs, T. R. Strong's Indianapolis A.B.C.'s; H. L. Moore's Birminghams; and teams in Atlanta, Mounds, Ill., and the Jacksonville Red Caps.

The National League is run by a board of three men—Abe Manley of the Eagles, Gus Greenlee of the Crawfords and Tom Wilson of the Elite Giants. The American League is bossed by Major R. R. Jackson, chairman.

In the past Ferdinand Q. Morton of New York, Rollo Wilson of Philadelphia, and Judge W. C. Hueston of Washington have held the post of baseball commissioner, arbiting between the two leagues. At the moment this post is vacant. At the June meeting of the leagues in Pittsburgh a new commissioner is expected to be selected. One name mentioned most prominently is that of Magistrate Joseph Rainey of Philadelphia.

League meetings in east or west are as lively and draw as much interest among baseball enthusiasts, sports writers, and other folk as any meeting of the big leagues.

Release at these meetings of the seasonal schedule is but one big job completed. These schedules affect many lives, not only of the players, but of the thousands of fans. A second big task is the effecting of player trades and releases. Not publicized so much are the prices and wages of the players, but trades call for shrewd bargaining of the cash value of big player names.

Despite hundreds of doubting Thomases, it is safe to predict that organized Negro baseball is here to stay. The owners of these clubs are sincere and have invested thousands of dollars in fine buses, parks, players, and sundries to give to their followers the best in league baseball. Men like Gus Greenlee, Abraham Manley, Tom Wilson, Cum Posey, Edward Gottlieb, Edward Bolden, and "Sonnyman" Jackson are due real credit for their sacrifices in maintaining organized Negro baseball.

There are few improvements in the operation of the league which should be made as soon as possible. Among these are:

1. A league statistician should be employed to compile individual and team averages and standings.
2. A central booking agency should be maintained by the league to draw up the schedule and book exhibition games. This would mean a saving to the clubs in fees and would also take them from under the domination and mercy of white booking agencies.
3. The establishment of a publicity bureau to sell league baseball to the public.
4. A league commissioner with the powers of Judge Landis.

Fascinating History

Negro baseball is not a new development. It has a long and fascinating history. To the immortal Rube Foster goes the credit for being the person to pioneer in giving our race organized baseball. Previous to this, Negro baseball was of an independent, gaudy type, resembling and retaining most of the objectionable features of the travelling carnival. Owners reaped a rich harvest in playing independent white ball clubs. For this Negro baseball suffered.

White fans, who attended and supported the major leagues looked upon these contests as mere novelty and usually judged the calibre of Negro players by their success against third-rate independent white clubs.

Foster was the first to recognize the

absence of the sincere competitive element in these exhibition games. If Negro baseball was to survive and gain the recognition it deserved it had to outgrow the independent, mercenary stage. To achieve this goal, Rube Foster organized the first Negro baseball league in 1920.

It was a six team league with Kansas City, Indianapolis, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and the Bacharach Giants of New York comprising the organization. This league enjoys the reputation of having been the most successful operated of the several that have existed since the year of its founding. That success is attributed to the baseball genius and brilliant leadership of Foster who ruled with strict discipline until his death in 1929. Without his astute direction the league passed out of existence the next year.

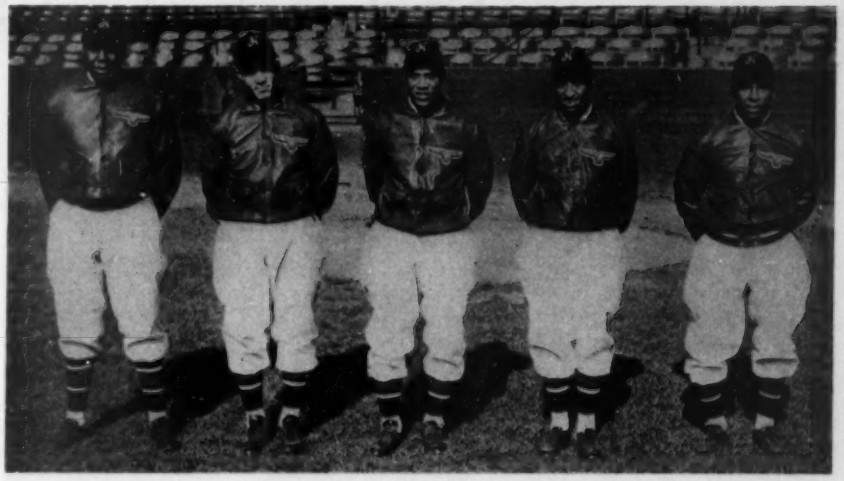
Inspired by the success of Foster's league venture in the West and confronted with a loss of colored patronage, eastern owners organized the Eastern Colored League in 1922. This league also consisted of six teams; Hilldale, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Lincoln Giants, Cuban Stars, Bacharach Giants and the Baltimore Black Sox. The Washington Potomacs gained a franchise in 1923 and the Harrisburg Giants became a member one year later. Internal friction over policies caused the league to break up in 1932.

The next league to be formed in the East was the East-West league, which was in reality a re-organization of the defunct Eastern Colored League. This organization lacked competent financial backing and failed to finish the season.

In the distant past colored players have played in certain major leagues. Chappy Gardner, who is better known today as a newspaper writer, but who started playing professional baseball in 1908 with the old Brooklyn Royals and played later with the New York Colored Giants, the New York Stars, Cuban Giants, Havana Red Sox, Quebec Royals, and the New York Red Sox, revealed recently that there are in New York today two former big league players and former club owners and managers. He cited Sol White, an old timer with an active mind and a head full of baseball brains who was on the West Virginia State League in 1887; played in the Ohio State League (white) and was captain player in the Philadelphia Giants, world colored champs (1901-06). White has sat on the bench at the late John McGraw's request in World Series games to advise McGraw.

Ben Taylor, brother of C. I. Taylor, is also cited by Gardner as having made a record in white and colored baseball in the West.

Perhaps there is, perhaps not, a detailed history of these colorful players of the past. If not, there should be one in the form of a "Hall of Fame."



Infield of the Newark Eagles, left to right: "Mule" Suttles, first base; James Moore, first base; Willie Wells, short stop; Dick Seay, second base; Raymond Dandridge, third base

The Big League Talk

A recent issue in the game which has drawn much attention is possibility of admission of the top players to the major leagues. All colored team owners are not enthusiastic over this project. They point out that, after colored leagues have developed great players, white leagues may take them over and keep all the profit; whereby if they are not so admitted in time colored leagues can pay them as much as they might earn with the whites. It is a widely discussed subject.

Among daily sportswriters who have strongly advocated that a team like the Brooklyn Dodgers could redeem itself by adding a few colored stars are Hugh Bradley of the New York *Post*, Jimmie Powers of the New York *Daily News*, and Murray Robinson of the Newark, N.J., *Star-Eagle*.

Bradley wrote recently: "I suggested that if they (Brooklyn Dodgers) would give some fair consideration to the colored citizens of this nation, they might forthwith discover a means for putting both team and gate receipts into the first division.

"Twenty colored players of big time ability—indeed one or two of them have much of the class of Hubbell and DiMaggio—are offered to the entire National League.

"This is an offer the National League can ill afford to reject. The league gets shellacked in the World Series. The all-star game has become such an absurdity that four Yankees licked the stuffings out of the national league's best last July."

William E. Benswanger, owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates, said recently: "If the question of admitting colored ball players into organized baseball becomes an issue, I would be heartily in favor of it."

Murray Robinson, writing last month in the Newark *Star-Eagle*, under the title "Men 'Nobody' Knows", said: "Organized baseball is closed to colored players. Yet we have the word of unprejudiced observers who have followed the performances of the colored stars for years that there are a number of individuals in the ranks of the latter who are as good as any big leaguer."

Leon Hardwick, sports editor of the *Afro-American*, sums up the attitude of some of the team owners in the league when he says: "At present there is a great move to get colored players into the big leagues. It's a splendid move and I for one am 100 per cent in favor of it. But, if we had an efficient, workable organization of our own, with all the accompanying publicity it deserves, we wouldn't have to go begging the white moguls to please let us in."

Must Develop Box Office

On this topic, let the enthusiastic and over zealous colored fan remember that baseball is a big business, void of any sentimentality. The hope of Negro ball players getting into the major leagues does not rest in the development of the individual player, but in the development of our Negro leagues to the point where they will compete with the major leagues for their patrons.

The surest guarantee for stars like Satchell Paige, Josh Gibson, Ray Dand-

(*Continued on page* 146)

Fighting Syphilis

By Albert L. Hinton

IT was in Philadelphia during the second week in August, 1936. The executive board of the National Medical Association was holding its annual session. Into this assemblage, representing the nation's most outstanding Negro surgeons and general practitioners, walked short, portly, rotund, and distinguished-looking Dr. David Wellington Byrd of Norfolk, Virginia.

"Gentlemen," he began, "I think we ought to do something about this. Here's the oportunity we have been waiting for," he said in effect; "our chance to do something really worthwhile, and to throw the entire resources of our association into a movement which should have been started years ago." "And," he added, "we must strike while the iron is hot."

The "this" to which Dr. Byrd referred was a copy of a recent issue of the *Survey Graphic* containing an article, "Why Don't We Stamp Out Syphilis?" by Dr. Thomas S. Parran, surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service. In it Dr. Parran described syphilis as "a plague that disables half a million Americans a year; a plague that does a hundred times as much damage as the dreaded infantile paralysis; a plague that is wrecking lives, shattering homes, and filling institutions all over the land with its insane, blind, feeble-minded, or unemployable victims—that is syphilis. It bids fair to become the great American disease."

Dr. Byrd served as president of the National Medical Association in 1917-1918 and as such, was, and still is, an adviser to its executive board. He was sincere, and he believed with Surgeon General Parran that syphilis "is responsible for more than 10 per cent of all insanity, 18 per cent of all diseases of the heart and blood vessels, for many of the still births and the deaths of babies in the first weeks of life."

The board listened attentively—and acted. A telegram was dispatched immediately to Dr. Parran commending him for his stand, and pledging the support of the association, its entire personnel and nationwide resources, to the fight against the disease for which preparations even then, were being made.

The incident in the board room has had wide repercussions. In the first place, it signalized the beginning of a series of circumstances which catapulted the National Medical Association and Dr. Byrd into nationwide limelight more effectively than could otherwise have been accomplished. Secondly, it led to the formation of a national commission, with Dr. Byrd as chairman, whose one and only purpose is to eradicate the dread malady.

MISS OLGA BOOTH, technician

Again, it has resulted in recognition of the Negro doctor on such a scale as was not dreamed of previously. For local, state and national health authorities are fast becoming awakened to the realization that the most effective way to bring syphilis under control is by an absolute united front, using the combined knowledge and resources of all physicians in the crusade, regardless of race.

In his recent book, "Shadow on the Land," in a chapter in which he describes syphilis as "the white man's burden," Surgeon General Parran gives due credit to the National Medical Association as "the first national organization formally to vote cooperation with the syphilis control campaign of the Public Health Service." "This association," he says, "at its meeting last summer, appointed a Commission on the Eradication of Syphilis which came to Washington in September to present a tentative program and to ask how their cooperation could be made most effective. They offered "unremitting efforts to enlist the services of all colored physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, and affiliated women's organizations, aggregating 15,000."

"Dr. D. W. Byrd, of Norfolk, Virginia, chairman of the commission, brought with him letters from his senators and congressmen who spoke of him as a leading citizen of his city, and a physician devoted wholeheartedly to solution of the health problems of his race. Ways and means of reaching the Negro population were discussed. One handicap is the shortage of institutions for the training of Negro physicians in syphilis control. Negro leaders are keenly aware of the importance of the syphilis problem to their race and are anxious to do something about it."

Dr. Parran's tribute to the Negro physician is expressed fittingly in the closing lines of the chapter. Says he: "The whole nation owes the Negro doctors a debt of gratitude for the enthusiasm and courage with which they take up their share of the load. I hope that the rest of us may measure up as well to our share of the responsibility."

When Dr. Parran praises the Negro physician, he no doubt thinks of him in terms of Dr. Byrd. For like the surgeon general, Dr. Byrd is an implacable foe of syphilis and has been for "lo these many years." When he speaks of the disease as it affects members of his own race, he is not dealing in generalities; he knows what he's talking about.

With a determination built upon his observation of the suffering of thousands of patients both in his private practice and through the Public Clinic in his home city of which he is director, Dr. Byrd has attacked the plague with all the strength at his command. He believes that "syphilis is not a disgrace, but a disease," and that we must "free our minds of the medieval concept that syphilis is the just reward of sin, and discuss it, and deal with it, as we would any other highly communicable disease, dangerous to the individual, and burdensome to the public at large."

Begun about five years ago at the request of Dr. J. C. Sleet, acting Norfolk city health commissioner, who was engaged in taking blood tests and administering treatment for syphilis to persons handling food, the Public Clinic, under Dr. Byrd's supervision, has grown steadily until today, three additional branches have been set up to take care of the large number of patients on regular clinic days.

The facility operates with a full time staff including Dr. E. D. Burke who, incidentally, is secretary of the National Medical Association Commission for the Eradication of Syphilis; Dr. Edward W. Murray, Dr. J. L. Sapp, and Dr. C. R. Ballard, who is in charge of the dental department. And asked how it all started, Dr. Byrd always replies: "Well, we just established it." But an average day sees more than 200 persons pass in and out of its doors.

With the assistance of an efficient staff of workers including registered nurses, case workers, and investigators, a total of more than 18,000 blood tests have been made at the facility in its five years of existence. The regular procedure, according to Dr. Byrd, is: first, find the patient; second, treat the patient to the point of non-infection; and third, prevent congenital syphilis.

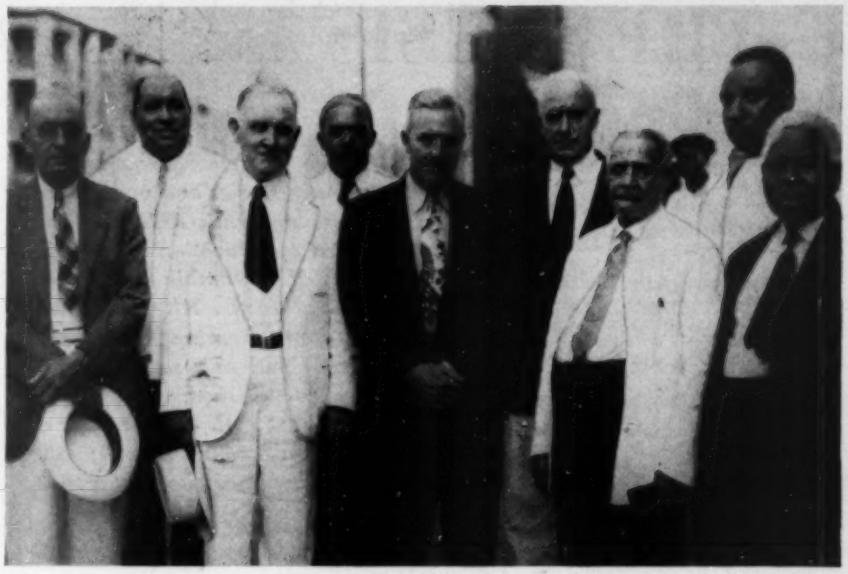
Local physicians, and others with more than a passing interest in the problem of venereal disease control, have given their services freely. Dark field equipment has been placed and special attention is given to expectant mothers at the clinic.

Organized as an urgent public need, the clinic, when open, presents a scene of activity which can be found in no other spot in the City of Norfolk. From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. each Thursday, treatments are administered and blood specimens taken for the Wasserman Test at the laboratories of the State Department of Health in Richmond, although the clinic is equipped to make its own tests if deemed advisable.

Staff meetings and classes for volunteer workers are held on Friday afternoons, the former from 1:30 to 2:30 o'clock, and the latter from 2:30 to 4:00. The city health department lends very material assistance in following up the cases resulting in a well-rounded venereal disease control program. To meet an immediate need for such facilities in other sections of the city, clinics have recently been established in the Titustown, Berkley and Campostella areas where hundreds of persons are examined and treated each week.

One of the first objectives of the Public Clinic is to stamp out, as far as possible, the dread malady in expectant mothers and infants. To this end a special setup is maintained and upwards of 100 cases are being constantly followed up in this department. As Dr. Byrd and his associates see it, one of the most effective ways to control syphilis is to see to it that a minimum number of babies is born with the disease.

Dr. Byrd's interest, and that of his associates in the problem of syphilis, has not been confined to the Public Clinic. Although the public facility was begun only five years ago, the matter of taking blood specimens for examination has been a matter of routine in his own practice for the past twenty-five years. As chairman of the program committee of the Old Dominion Medical Society, Dr. Byrd was responsible for inaugurating a series of lectures and class demonstrations for the benefit of physicians, nurses, social service workers, ministers, and other interested persons at the United States Marine Hospital, Norfolk, following the appointment of the syphilis commission by the N.M.A. The classes have been held once each month through the courtesy of Dr. Frederick C. Smith, medical director of the hospital.



Dr. Byrd's clinic in Norfolk was inspected and praised last fall by Dr. Thomas S. Parran, surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service. Left to right: Dr. J. C. Sleet, Norfolk health commissioner; Dr. E. D. Burke; Congressman Norman R. Hamilton; Dr. Edward W. Murray; Dr. Parran; Dr. F. O. Smith, medical director of the Marine hospital; Dr. Byrd; Dr. R. C. Ballard; and T. C. Walker, consultant on Negro affairs for the WPA in Virginia

But long before the commission was organized, the Norfolk physician had been active, on his own responsibility, in the effort to control syphilis. Largely through his efforts, all-day clinics were held once each year at the Marine Hospital and were attended by physicians from nearby communities and the neighboring state of North Carolina. At these annual clinics, the staff of the Marine Hospital, which incidentally, includes outstanding members of the profession in the field of venereal diseases, and its facilities, were placed at the disposal of Dr. Byrd and his associates.

During this period one of his staunchest supporters and strongest allies was Dr. O. L. Anderson, now in charge of the venereal disease division of the Virginia State Department of Health. Dr. L. J. Roper, former director of public welfare for the City of Portsmouth, Va., who is also connected with the Virginia State Health Department, has also been most cooperative in the movement.

Dr. Byrd, a former instructor at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessess, has pursued graduate study at the Harvard University Medical School, but admits that in the entire thirteen courses taken, nothing has been mentioned about syphilis. And so he has undertaken to find out all he can personally about the malady. The Public clinic is only one of the results of his efforts.

A personal inspection of the facility was made in September of last year by Surgeon General Parran and it was on this occasion that the head of the Public Health Service declared that the "higher percentage of the disease among members of the Negro race is due to a large extent to the fact that ignorance and poverty that breed the disease are more prevalent among members of the race."

Dr. Parran paid high tribute to Dr. Byrd, Dr. Burke and their associates. "Theirs is a unique and pioneering work, and the spirit and interest with which they are going about it are deserving of the highest commendation," he said. "They are doing a great thing for their own people."

In January of last year, Dr. Byrd was the only Negro physician to address the first National Conference on Venereal Diseases Control Work called in Washingeon by Surgeon General Parran. More than seven hundred delegates from forty states, representing medical, public health, nursing, social work, and civic organizations of national calibre, were present to hear the scrapping Norfolk physician exclaim that "we're going to fight 'til hell freezes over against this damnable plague which has touched perhaps every home in this country."

He declared that the fight against syphilis would tend to save the Negro race from the scourge of this disease, and asserted that the syphilis rate

(*Continued on page* 146)

THE CRISIS Is "Not Approved"

ON March 9 the Board of Education of the District of Columbia voted that THE CRISIS be not approved for use by pupils and students in the public schools of the District of Columbia.

This action by the board brings to a close, finally, a controversy that has extended for slightly more than two years.

Early in 1936, the Board of Education of the District of Columbia ordered all magazines then being used to be re-examined by a committee to see whether or not, according to a certain criteria, they should be approved for use in the schools.

First Assistant Superintendent Garnet C. Wilkinson prepared a memorandum which set forth that THE CRISIS was "a distinguished and worth while contribution to Negro life" and through certain articles and book reviews was presenting "educative features."

However, the memorandum stated that THE CRISIS was "not free from objectionable matter" and cited as examples the following references:

Issue	*Topic*
April, 1934.....	Women Among Soviets
August, 1934.....	Flag Salute
October, 1935.....	An Open Letter to Earl Browder
December, 1935...	Earl Browder Replies
February, 1936....	Communism and Peace Movements

The memorandum also charged that THE CRISIS made use of the term "nigger" in stories and poems and that the use of this term violated the rule which had been adopted with reference to textbooks used in the schools. Several references were cited of the use of this word, notably in stories of Negro life. (An examination of the files of THE CRISIS shows that this word has been used off and on ever since the magazine was established in 1910.)

THE CRISIS was invited to confer on the matter and explain its use of this term and throughout 1936 at various times letters were exchanged setting forth the views of each side in an attempt to reach an agreement. THE CRISIS maintained then, and still maintains, that any magazine carrying realistic fiction and poetry on the problems of Negro-white relations in this country, could not be editorially and artistically accurate if it refused to use certain terms.

Moreover, the editor maintained that the word in THE CRISIS was not an editorial classification such as it would be in textbooks, but that its use always was such as to make clear that the word was offensive to colored people and not to be used. Although dozens of items might have been cited in support of this view, a poignant little story, "Echo of the Distant Drum" by Carol Cotton which appeared in the December, 1935, issue, was cited to show the effective manner in which the term is used.

Since its founding in 1910 THE CRISIS has been using certain terms in stories and poems, but it was not until 1936 that the Board of Education of the District of Columbia discovered the bad words. After many letters, one hearing before the board, and one personal conference, the board has finally voted that THE CRISIS be "not approved" for use in the schools of the District

Early in December, 1936, the Board of Education heard statements from the editor of THE CRISIS and a representative of the magazine *"Opportunity"* (which also had been placed upon probation). Doxey A. Wilkerson of the Howard university faculty presented a survey of THE CRISIS showing that its material was of definite educational value and concerned with the problems of the day as they affected colored people and the whole problem of race relations. William H. Hastie, then assistant solicitor in the Department of the Interior, and now federal judge in the Virgin Islands, also spoke in behalf of THE CRISIS.

Personal Conference

On December 29, 1936, a conference was held between the editor of THE CRISIS and Assistant Superintendent Wilkinson and members of his staff. The staff members pointed out that for years they had been campaigning against the use of textbooks in the District of Columbia schools which used terms derogatory to the Negro race and that finally the board agreed to refuse to accept any textbook for use which contained such derogatory allusions. They said they felt that they could not be consistent if they approved a magazine which used objectionable terms.

The editor of THE CRISIS reiterated his stand that the magazine could not present accurate literary material if it refused to use this word upon occasions; and also pointed out once again the difference in the use of the term in a literary manner and as a derogatory epithet.

No agreement was reached except that each side would issue a statement explaining its position without rancor or misrepresentation.

The Board of Education, however, decided to continue its study of THE CRISIS and to postpone final decision in the hope that some agreement could be reached.

Meanwhile, *"Opportunity"* had been restored to the list of approved publications, and later the board reconsidered its stand upon articles dealing with communism, leaving only the charge that THE CRISIS used an objectionable term.

The matter coasted through 1937 until December when the following letter was received by THE CRISIS:

"You no doubt, are perfectly familiar with the situation as regards the use of your magazine, THE CRISIS, in public schools, of Washington, D. C.

"At the meeting of the Board of Education, June 16, 1937, the Magazine Committee recommended as follows:

" 'With regard to THE CRISIS, the committee is of the opinion that the number of instances in which terms or statements occur, which terms or statements are objectionable to some racial group, is sufficient to warrant a request for some statement of policy from the editors of the magazine. The committee feels, however, that it would be transcending its authority in making this request. The Committee, therefore, does not feel that it is warranted in making a recommendation at this time concerning THE CRISIS.'

"This recommendation was accepted by the Board, and the following motion was approved:

" 'That the matter of THE CRISIS be held open and that the Magazine Committee be empowered to discuss the matter with the editor of the magazine to see if they can reach some agreement and report to the Board.'

"As chairman of the committee, I am writing to inquire whether or not you care to discuss the matter with the committee and when it will be convenient for you to do so."

"Objectionable"

Our White Folks

We had not intended to say anything about the troubles of former King Edward VIII and the British empire, but the Archbishop of Canterbury's radio speech after the King's abdication is too much for us. Our white folks have no idea how funny they are, prating ponderously over "fast social sets" and the morality of divorce, all the while winking at international murder, the rape of free peoples, and the grinding down of the poor.

—*Editorial from* THE CRISIS, *January*, 1937.

Objectionable to White Race

To this letter THE CRISIS replied on December 24 thanking the committee on magazines for "proceeding with this situation in such a manner as to take into account all angles and give the fullest consideration to arguments pro and con." But THE CRISIS pointed out that its position had been made clear in several letters to the Board and cited the letter of April 13, 1936, the letter of January 11, 1937, and the letter of June 19, 1937. On February 8, 1938, THE CRISIS received a letter from Principal F. C. Daniel, chairman of the committee on the magazines, informing it that final disposition would be made of the matter at a meeting on February 16; and citing an additional charge against THE CRISIS of printing articles "which are objectionable to the white race." The letter states:

"You are fully acquainted with the first-mentioned complaint, as indicated by the references to previous correspondence in your letter of December 24, 1937. As illustrations of the second complaint I am referring you to the following: THE CRISIS, January, 1937, page 17, 'Our White Folks;' page 20, 'The Mixed Race Sexual Theory.'

"The committee will deal with both of these questions at the meeting on the sixteenth. If it is your desire to make a defense or an explanation in regard to these complaints before it takes action on the case the committee will be ready to hear you at that time."

To this letter THE CRISIS replied on February 9:

"Thank you for your letter of February 8 and the invitation to meet with your committee on magazines for high schools on Wednesday, February 16, at 3:30 p.m.

"I regret to say that my schedule of appointments here prevents me from saying at this moment that I can avail myself of this invitation. It may be that some changes will occur between now and February 16 which will permit me to meet with your committee.

"I think we both realize that both the board of education and THE CRISIS have stated clearly their positions on the complaint that THE CRISIS uses language 'not approved by the school officials in divisions 10 to 13.'

"Numerous letters are on file containing the views of THE CRISIS on each of the points raised by the board and these letters are summarized in my letter to you of December 24, 1937.

"With respect to the second complaint against THE CRISIS which has arisen since the controversy began, namely, to quote your letter of February 8, 'serious objection has been made to certain articles in the magazine which are objectionable to the white race,' I must confess great surprise. I am all the more astonished at the examples cited in our issue of January, 1937: an editorial paragraph 'Our White Folks' on page 17, and a section of a sociological report on a Texas lynching which appears on page 20 under a sub-title 'A Mixed-Race Sexual Theory.'

"The editorial paragraph cited is among the mildest comments on the absurd preachments of the Archbishop of Canterbury following the abdication of Edward VIII. It is a perfectly logical comment to appear in any journal of opinion circulating among dark people since the British Empire is said to hold jurisdiction over some four hundred million members of colored races; since its former foreign minister, Sir Samuel Hoare, was the author of the universally condemned 'settlement' of the Ethiopian war—which settlement was so shameful in its proposals that British public opinion itself forced its withdrawal immediately upon its disclosure; since obviously a long sermon on the morality of divorce by the highest officer of the official church of England while maintaining silence on the morality of the invasion and partition of an independent and peaceful country suggests strongly the biblical phrase of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. The editorial paragraph is a paragon of accuracy and restraint.

"I may say in passing, with no more comment upon it, that any objection raised to this paragraph and seriously maintained does something of an injustice to the British Empire and the white race by pausing to note such a gentle criticism. Britain and the white race deserve (and, indeed, sorely need) stout defense upon other more vigorously attacked sectors.

Sociological Study by Whites

"As for the second item cited as objectionable to members of the white race, I can say only that the paragraph cited was a part of an article assembled by the sociology department of Southern Methodist university at Dallas, Tex., and published in the official magazine of the sociology department there and reprinted by THE CRISIS with permission. The publication in which this article originally appeared is entitled "Studies in Sociology" for the summer of 1936. The data and the conclusions in the article are the result of a survey made by sociology students at the university under the direction of faculty members. I am sure I do not need to add for the information of members of your committee that Southern Methodist university is a 'white' institution of higher learning from which Negro students are barred. Therefore, if the article indeed be objectionable to the white race, the blame for the original sin is upon the members of that race.

"I hope very much that I may arrange to be present at the meeting of your committee February 16 although I do not know that there is anything I can add to the sentiments ex-

(*Continued on page* 146)

"Objectionable"

Excerpts from "Echo of the Distant Drum,"
a Story by CAROL B. COTTON

It was the day before Christmas. Becky tucked her feet up in the hem of her flannel nightie and bounced up and down in bed. She slid one warm hand up from under the blankets and touched the tip of her nose. Grandma said Becky's nose was cold, like a puppy's, every morning. It must be time for Grandma to come and call "Double up, little sister!" That was the way Grandma had called Mother when she was six-going-on-seven. Grandma was always talking to Becky about when Mother was six-going-on-seven, and everything that Mother did then, Becky must do now . . . But Mother never had any roller skates, nor any paper dolls, nor . . . oh joy . . . any Sunday School s'tif'cate. Becky wasn't exactly sure what a s'tif'cate was, but Marjorie and Priscilla and Walter and a little fat girl named Mary Sue . . . and Becky . . . were going to get one today. And Becky was going to send hers to Mother for a Christmas-birthday present . . .

The church was warm all over, not just near the fire, like at Grandma's. Becky hurried past the big doors that led into where the man preached, and where she waited for Grandma every Sunday after Sunday School. She went downstairs quickly. She had a new dress to get her s'tif'cate in . . . The teacher said they must all sit quietly until it was time to go upstairs. Becky could hardly breathe. Then she thought of something terrible. Suppose they spelled her name wrong! Then Mother wouldn't know it was truly her own s'tif'cate, because Becky's name was spelled a particular way. She went up to the teacher and waited . . . The teacher smiled at Becky. "What is it, dear," she said.

"Did they spell my name right on my s'tif'cate?" Becky asked, very low. The children laughed at the way Becky said things, sometimes.

"Why, Rebekah! Did you think . . . come here, dear." The teacher took Becky's hand, and led her over to the windows . . .

"You see, Rebekah, you haven't been here but a few months. Marjorie and Priscilla and Walter and Mary Sue have been in this church since they were babies on the Cradle Roll. And you don't really live here, do you? You're just visiting your grandmother, aren't you?"

Becky nodded. The trembly feeling wouldn't let her talk.

"Well, we can't give you a certificate. You can go on in the other class with the rest, because you're quite a big girl, but since you're not really a member . . ."

Becky turned away . . .

"Aren't they goin' to give you a s'tif'cate?" That was Walter, whispering so the teacher wouldn't hear him. "No." "Well, it's because you're a nigger," he said. Becky looked at him in wonder. "What's a nigger?" But Walter just laughed. Becky could hear the tump-tump-tumpety of the organ upstairs. Down here it sounded just like a drum. "You're a nigger, too," she told Walter. "No I'm not. I'm not, and Marjorie's not, and Priscilla and nobody is but you . . . y-o-u, that's who!" Then Walter ran to get in line. Upstairs the organ was beginning to play "Away in a Manger." Becky went over to the hooks and got her things. The cattle are lowing . . . the baby awakes . . . but Little Lord Jesus no crying he makes . . . She put on her sweater, then her muffler, then her coat. She buttoned it high and tight, and pulled her hat down over the red ribbon. Grandma had put it on carefully, pulled on her mittens . . . Upstairs, as she crept past the big doors, she could hear the children singing "Silent Night, Holy Night." Soon they would come down to get their s'tif'cates. She wouldn't get one. Walter said because she was a nigger. The teacher said because she was living with Grandma. Did it make you a nigger to live with Grandma? Then Grandpa must be one too. Maybe that was why Mother never got a s'tif'cate, or Grandpa. Now Mother wouldn't get any Christmas-birthday present from Becky. Maybe she, Becky wouldn't get anything . . . did Santa Claus come to niggers? . . .

At home, Grandma scolded because Becky had left Sunday School. She asked Becky questions. Why did she come back? Why didn't she have her certificate? . . . Becky told her what Walter said. Grandma's face got mad. "Never say that word again as long as you live, Rebekah Brooks. Do you understand me?" . . .

—*From* THE CRISIS, *December*, 1935.

A Community Branch Library

By Katherine F. O'Brien

The chief problem of a branch library in a community is to get people to use the facilities and to ask for more service. This short article on a Cleveland branch library shows a gratifying growth of reading habits among youngsters, some response from a small upper intellectual circle, but not much from the great group in between

AS James Weldon Johnson challenges "Negro Americans, What Now?" so might a branch librarian serving Negroes inquire "Negro Americans, What Does a Branch Library Mean to You?" There is in Cleveland, Ohio, in a densely populated Negro district, a library called Cedar Branch at 10112 Cedar avenue. Because of its location it is familiarly pointed out as the library around the corner. It is not only Cedar's cozy interior with its warm coloring, its orange and green book shelves and furniture, its friendly arrangement of tables and chairs, or its brightly lighted quarters, with its illuminated exhibit case, that should make the Cedar patrons enthusiastic about their home branch, but it is the whole hearted effort which has been made to adapt the library to the needs of the community. One of thirty-three branches, in a system totaling 1,408 distributing agencies, the library's policy and all of its activities are carried out in conjunction with that of the Cleveland Public Library System as a whole.

Two months after the opening of the Branch on April 8, 1931, Miss Linda A. Eastman, renowned and revered librarian of the Cleveland Public Library System addressed the graduating class of the school of library science of Western Reserve university on "The Whole Duty of the Librarian." Much of her inspiring address might be quoted to express the spirit she has summoned and encouraged in all of her staff, but one brief citation can serve as a declaration of faith shared by Cedar Branch staff in particular. She said: "Libraries exist for the readers. Their efficiency must, therefore, be measured by the extent to which they serve their clientele."

Though not a Negro library, our branch is one where the majority of borrowers are colored people, hence efforts to attract these people as readers are varied and constant. At various times the branch librarian speaks to different groups studying the Negro, such as a young men's club at a settlement house, a group of young colored college women, or an adult education group of student nurses and social workers. Her usual preface may not unfittingly be repeated here: "The term Negro is deliberately employed to designate colored people. Its definitiveness is inadequate and as irrelative as complexion is to race, or race to nationality, but its convenience is admitted and its usefulness to be employed."

In our six year history, we have had various colored assistants, two of whom have been on the staff since its opening. We are proud of having had the first colored assistant branch librarian in Cleveland (since transferred and now first assistant at Sterling, another Cleveland branch library) and the first colored guard. Several colored workers have begun their library experience here and we now have four on our staff.

Each year, as a member of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the branch librarian attends their meetings and their annual dinner is used as an advantageous occasion to introduce new assistants to Negro leaders and work with colored people. The whole staff has maintained one hundred per cent N.A.A.C.P. membership.

Though there is no space for group readings on every possible occasion emphasis is brought to bear on publicizing literature on Negro History Week, Negro Health Week, articles of special interest concerning Negroes such as "All Black" by Webb Waldron in the "Survey Graphic" (Jan. 1938), and the many pamphlets on the Negro. Several bibliographies have been prepared by the library. Response is sometimes lethargic, but convinced that we are serving a purpose for which a promise of success is a sufficient reward, we do the best we can to persevere.

Children's Work Encouraging

More encouraging is our work with children. Anyone intensely interested in the advancement of colored people cannot help but be impressed by the contrast between the new generation of readers and the old. We who are "tenders of the book" gain inspiration from the realization that many of our young people are already full-born bookworms and that all who will have the right to "book-exposure."

In a popularity contest sponsored by the children's librarian votes cast by the children for the "Book of the Week"

(*Continued on page* 157)

The Negro literature section of the Cedar branch library in Cleveland, O.

Stage Spotlights Harlem Housing

By Raphael Knight

The Federal Theatre Project's current living Newspaper in New York's Adelphi theatre is entitled ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." and, in its dealing with the general housing problem, does not neglect Harlem

BETTER housing in America has finally become a national issue. Recognized as such by President Roosevelt in his second inaugural address when he stated that "one-third of a nation is ill-housed, ill-clad and ill-nourished," housing legislation has been placed among the "musts" of the present session of Congress.

Definitely a part of that "one-third of a nation," every Negro knows that the portion of colored persons who need better, or rather decent housing is even greater than the percentage of white so in need in the United States.

It is no news to a Negro that he gets less for his money in housing than anyone else even though he may have less, proportionately, with which to pay for such shelter. Recent material gathered by the Federal Theatre Project for its Living Newspaper on housing, ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." reveals to what extent this "gyping" has taken place. The Living Newspaper covers the history of housing in New York City with a dramatic exposé of the growth of the slum evil that may be applied to any section of the country. One of the high-lights of the play is a scene exposing the so-called "hot bed" system forced upon workers in Harlem who must pay as much to share the use of a bed as a room would cost in some of the other poorer sections of the city.

Much more material was gathered by the Federal Theatre research staff than could possibly have been used in ". . . one-third of a nation . . . and included in this data is a great deal of information of housing conditions in Harlem.

This information is proof of the fact that not only has the Negro suffered the brunt of the depression, but in New York City his suffering has been increased by the growth, since 1920, of the population of Harlem to over ten times its former number. At the same time the area in which the colored family may find a place to live has expanded only gradually. The haphazard migration of the Negro population into other boroughs, in search of lower rent, has had little effect on the ever increasing congestion in Harlem.

16% Additional Profit

Landlords, taking advantage of the fact that they can still confine Negroes to restricted areas of the city, have received higher profits from Harlem than they have from other sections of the city, WPA data shows. A survey of housing costs of portions of the Lower East Side of New York City compared with Harlem, made for 1934 as a typical year, shows that the return over taxes and expenses on rentals in Harlem was 26 per cent, while on the East Side it was 10 per cent. If 10 per cent is recognized as a pretty high profit on human misery, the conclusion should be obvious regarding more than two and a half times that much.

If this seems strange information for a Theatre Project to be gathering, it can be easily explained by describing the manner in which a Living Newspaper is prepared. While Living Newspapers such as "Triple-A Ploughed Under," "Injunction Granted," "Power," and now ". . . one-third of

(*Continued on next page*) . .

WPA Photo

Ad Bates and Kermit Augustine in the play, ". . . one-third of a nation . . ."

a nation . . ." have all been acclaimed by critics as outstanding dramatic success, they are not the product of a make believe world.

Facts, the life-blood of a newspaper, are also the foundation of the Living Newspaper. For months before ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." opened at the Adelphi Theatre, a large research staff was climbing stairs of tenement houses all over the city, making notes and taking photographs for skeptics who might doubt the story later presented on the stage. Its 25 trained research workers, with the aid of an equally competent library staff, also dug into reports, surveys, and old newspapers dating back over two centuries for probably the most complete compilation of data on housing in New York City ever made. In this work the Living Newspaper staff received the co-operation of the New York City Housing Authority, the Tenement House Department and other civic groups concerned with housing.

With such careful scrutiny of the housing problem, it was inevitable that facts long suspected should be brought to light and verified. For example, it was discovered that 60 per cent of the Harlem population living in rented apartments paid rents of $30 and over per month during the same period that only 14 per cent of the Lower East Side paid as much for shelter. Another contrast was afforded when the median rent figure for each of these families was computed. The median rent is the amount the middle family of the rental range pays each month. In Harlem $34.66 was the median rent, while on the lower East Side it was only $17.32. Harlem's middle family was paying fully 100 per cent more than the middle family on the lower East Side, and out of a possible lower income!

39% of Income for Rent

Data on a separate survey of the Harlem family income, also taken in 1934 for comparison, shows that in the six typical blocks examined the average monthly income per family was $76.80. The average rent per family for the area at $30.39, while less than the $34.66 median rental, still represented 39.5% of the monthly average income per family. With the theoretical ideal proportion of rent to income set at 20 to 25 per cent, the above figure explains the widespread practice of doubling up of families and overcrowding in Harlem apartments.

It was material such as this which the Living Newspaper fashioned into two hours of exciting entertainment everyone interested in the housing problem should see. ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." also indicates that something must be done about housing, something more than has been done—and soon.

Probably the best explanation why nothing really effective has been done about housing is given by Catherine Bauer in her excellent book, "Modern Housing." She states that the reason is "lack of real demand," or as the loudspeaker in ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." interprets it "Inertia!" Writes Miss Bauer, "The lack of such a demand is the principal reason for all the obstacles which have piled up in the path of housing in America." For a solution she offers the opinion that "there will never be any realistic housing movement in this country until the workers and the consumers—and the unemployed—themselves take a hand in the solution."

That Negroes generally understand this is shown in ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." when one Negro resident of a "hot bed" rooming house says to another: "When you don't like the way things are, and you want to change 'em, don't try to do it all by yourself. You can't . . . you got to get 'em all together—everybody that's getting gypped just the way you are—you gotta get 'em all together, and then you gotta do something!—*Together!*"

The Living Newspaper also recognizes that slum clearance without first providing shelter for slum residents is no solution. The danger of considering such a practice as housing improvement is quickly recognized by every person who has been forced out of his home to make room for a slum clearance project. Housing statistics show that invariably the former residents of such an area are unable to return to live in the new project when it is completed either because the new apartments cost too much or a highly selective method of choosing residents has excluded them. They are, therefore, forced to find shelter in other slum areas, congesting them even more.

Housing Needed in Blighted Areas

Careful study of the Living Newspaper material on housing in Harlem reveals that the Negro may well fear that slum clearance in that section of the city will do more harm than good unless it is confined to so-called blighted areas. A blighted area is a portion of the city so poorly populated that clearing it would mean the transposition of only a few families. Harlem River Houses were built in such a locality and Negroes can look upon this and other government housing projects for colored residents as evidence that their special case will receive consideration by the government.

A better solution, however, would be to open new areas for Negro occupation. Negroes should demand that the government erect future projects on cheaper land in other boroughs. Such projects would reduce the over-crowded condition in Harlem and would provide adequate housing at cheaper rents. Thus the resultant decentralization would open new channels of employment to a people in dire need and would at the same time relieve the "scarcity" element of Harlem housing that permits such flagrant rent gouging.

The typical consumer of housing in ". . . one-third of a nation . . ." concludes that with the co-operation of his Tenants League he is going to continue to demand that Washington do something about the housing problem. "And if they don't hear us," states the typical consumer's wife, "you're going to have just what you always had . . . slums . . . disease . . . crime . . . juvenile delinquency . . ."

It would be well for the Negro to plan similar action. The stage has been set by such statements as President Roosevelt's and such legislation as the Wagner-Steagall housing bill, which might have been more adequate if the people had made greater demands for more action on housing. But Congress and the President can merely set the stage—the people must be the actors. And the Negro, who has the greater need, must play a lead in this real-life benefit performance.

Discovery

By Inge Hardison

Suddenly, I find you insincere
So I'll not bear you longer as I have—
Remembering the way I worshipped you—
But pluck you from my unresisting heart
And fling you down to mold with things
forgot.

I shall not carry you within my mind
Beyond the lighting of the fire there
That lives a moment on your empty words
The inky symbols of your falsity.

And when the fire's done and hearth is
swept
I'll sprinkle salt upon the little roots
Of any love that might be left behind.

Spring

By Inge Hardison

Too great a beauty to be borne
Without a trembling sigh
Smiles out from all the leafy things
Between the ground and sky
For May has flung a Joseph's coat
To cover all the land
That she might walk in gay perfume
A garden fair and grand.

Editorials

No Action Yet

IT has been almost a month, to the time of this writing, since the President suggested in a press conference on March 22 that the federal government should send the famed G-men to investigate lynchings and make the facts known to him, to Congress and to the public. This suggestion, presumably, was the President's own substitute for the Gavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, which was filibustered from its preferred position on the Senate calendar, February 21, after six weeks of debate.

To date no move has been made to bring the President's suggestion into reality. The Attorney General's office, under which the G-men work, has made no comment. Congressional leaders have stated positively that no legislation has been proposed to carry out the President's suggestion.

While Mr. Roosevelt's press conference idea would not be a complete answer to the need for federal action against lynching, at least it would provide official information on the crime which might later form the basis for a new demand for federal action, provided, always, that the states themselves fail—as they have in the past—to act. It would be a step in the right direction.

But nothing has been done to make the President's remarks anything more than passing the time of day. His administration permitted the sidetracking of a real anti-lynching bill. How far will it go on a substitute? Did the President mean what he said on March 22, or was he trying to hold the Negro voters in the North in line for the fall elections?

Room at the Top

IT is an old American saying that there is, in our democracy, an opportunity for every man who has ability to climb to the top and win fame, fortune and prestige without regard to his beginning. A few weeks ago American magazines carried an advertisement of the American Telephone and Telegraph company with pictures of the presidents of its various subsidiaries who had begun as clerks or linemen, or office boys and had climbed to the top.

This was a fine, inspiring advertisement for most of America, but it brought a sour twist to the mouths of 12,000,000 Negro citizens. For not only is it not possible for Negroes to rise to the top of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, but it is impossible for them even to make a beginning with this great corporation. Search as you will and you cannot find a clerk, a switchboard operator, a lineman, an electrician, or an office boy throughout the corporation who is not white. There may be a few janitors and messengers who are colored, but that is all. And they never rise above their present jobs.

This huge public utility can make America real to twelve million citizens who now listen with skepticism to preachments about the glorious opportunities under the American system of government. Give us jobs!

Peace and War and the Negro

THERE is much talk in Congress of war and peace and of our army and navy. Billions are to be spent for armaments and the strength of the army is to be raised. On all sides there is speculation on the next war and America's chance of keeping out, on the loyalty of our citizens, and the resources available for a war.

Ten per cent of this country's population is black. Black Americans have got a raw deal from the greatest democracy in the world. It might as well be set down bluntly now, before any hostilities come to the front, that Negro Americans are not very enthusiastic about going to war for the Stars and Stripes. Here is a government which denies them protection in their most elemental democratic right—to be safeguarded in life, liberty, and property through due process of law, and yet which expects them to be ready to drop everything and fight.

As if lynchings, and denial of the ballot, and denial of a decent education, and denial of employment opportunities, and exploitation on plantations were not enough, Negroes find when they do prepare to serve their country that most branches of the army and the entire navy (except work as mess attendants) are closed to them. They cannot fly for their country. They cannot join the Marine corps. They cannot join the artillery. The Coast Guard service is not for them. They cannot be engineers. They cannot be even ordinary seamen in the navy. The door of the naval academy at Annapolis is slammed in their faces and that to the military academy at West Point is barely cracked.

If war should come, why should the Negro fight? The answer to that question would make interesting reading.

If You Want Something, You Have to Pay

SOME estimates of what was spent to defeat the government reorganization bill have been made public and they form interesting reading for Negroes who clamor for "something to be done" about the race's rights.

The organization which fought the reorganization bill calls itself the Committee to Uphold the Constitution. It reports that from January 1 to March 31, 1938, it collected $331,000. Of this amount, $174,000 was spent for printing and $53,000 for postage. Several thousand dollars were spent on telegrams to hundreds of people asking them in turn to send telegrams to the Senate.

This committee was fighting, theoretically, only for a constitutional principle—the continued separation of the executive, legislative and judicial functions. It was not fighting to save lives and liberty from mobs. It was not fighting for the elemental human rights of citizens, but ostensibly for a high principle of democratic government. But how it fought! How it raised and spent money!

Between November 15 and February 21 the N.A.A.C.P. spent, roughly, $2,500 fighting for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching bill. The goal was a trial in a court for an accused person rather than hanging, shooting, and roasting at the hands of a mob—in other words the most basic of human rights. Yet the association could afford to spend only $2,500 at the most crucial period for the bill. The foes of the reorganization bill spent more on postage than the entire budget of the N.A.A.C.P. for one year. They spent as much for printing alone as the N.A.A.C.P. spends in three and a half years for its entire program of fighting for the rights of colored people.

The moral of this story is that if you want something you must pay for it. It is ridiculous to say that 12,000,000 Negroes, even considering their poverty and their other interests, cannot set aside more than $50,000 a year for an organized fight for their rights as citizens. If only a half million Negroes gave only a dollar a year (8 cents a month) a smashing blow could be delivered against their oppression on all fronts. In the matter of his rights, the Negro cannot expect to buy a porterhouse steak with soup bone money.

Play Ball!

(*Continued from page* 137)

ridge and others to break down the barrier is for them to perform so brilliantly in their own league until fans will leave the white major league parks to come and see them play. Whenever this day arrives, then the Rupperts, the Stonehams, the Rickeys and Wrigleys will be coming to get the attraction that is diminishing their gate receipts.

Let us stop talking of the individual prowess of our colored players—that is known only too well. For years we have had a multitude of players capable of playing big league baseball, but none of them have been admitted. Let us talk of the Newark Eagles, Elite Giants, Homestead Grays and the rest of our league clubs like white fans laud the Giants, Yankees, Cardinals, and other major league teams. For it is only through the elevation of our Negro league baseball that colored ball players will break into white major league ball. To think otherwise is just sentimentality.

But while widespread discussion is in the air about colored players in the majors, the 1938 baseball season is at hand and the fans are ready. Way down south the Eagles, Crawfords, Homestead Grays, and other teams are already in exhibition competition with their rivals. This training and the opening league games will settle one great question: who is today's greatest colored pitcher? Is it still Paige, McDuffie, Day, Johnnie Taylor, and others who gained fame in recent years or is there a newcomer somewhere among the rookies who will startle the fans during 1938?

Fighting Syphilis

(*Continued from page* 139)

among members of the race was extremely high. Two-thirds of the Negroes in Virginia insane asylums are there because of the disease, he revealed. "God is in this work and I thank God for it," he concluded amidst a tremendous ovation.

More recently, at the invitation of Senator Royal S. Copeland, Dr. Byrd appeared before the Senate sub-committee to voice his support of the bill offered by Senator LaFollette proposing that the U. S. Public Health Service be given additional duties in connection with the investigation and control of venereal diseases. He was accompanied by Dr. E. D. Burke.

Speaking as a representative of the National Medical Association and its several affiliates with a combined membership of 15,000, Dr. Byrd declared: "A foe is upon us, is within us, an insidious foe, devastating, destroying more, leaving greater wreckage of human lives than any war. Appropriate funds; give us a part to do under the National Public Health Service, give us a part in every state, let us help direct among our own in some places of responsibility that pride in the work may be ours and a heritage to our children."

And so, Dr. Byrd is carrying on his work with the firm conviction that "freedom from syphilis is purchasable." But with Dr. Parran he believes that "syphilis control is not the business of the public health officer alone, nor yet of the physician or the social worker. It is a job for the whole people. To support such action is the first responsibility of a government designed to promote the general welfare.

"Syphilis," he believes, "must be the next great plague to go. Our children will hold us criminally careless and incompetent if, with the means at hand, we fail to end this scourge within our generation. This is one contribution we know how to make toward a safer, happier world for them to live in."

"Not Approved"

(*Continued from page* 141)

pressed in this letter on the new point which has been raised against The Crisis."

The editor was not able to attend the meeting of the committee on magazines February 16. The board acted at its regular meeting March 9 and The Crisis was notified in the following letter dated March 28:

My dear Mr. Wilkins:

The Board of Education at its meeting March 9 voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Committee on Magazines for High Schools that The Crisis be not approved in the public schools of Washington, D. C. The Board's action was taken upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the magazine committee's recommendation in turn was based upon unanimous agreement.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles D. Degges
Secretary,
Board of Education

There is not much to add to this history. Three members of the board are colored, two men and a woman. The Crisis believes all three acted without bias. We do not agree with their vote, but we believe they voted as members of a board of education (which is the way we want them to vote) and not as Negroes on a narrow racial basis. The colored woman member stood staunchly by The Crisis during 1936 and 1937.

The Crisis has no information on whether it was disapproved on the sole count of using a term objectionable to the Negro race, or whether the additional count was sustained that it printed matter objectionable to the white race. The latter point is interesting in that it raises the question of how a magazine could be published in the United States of America in the interest of Negroes and not be critical of the white race!

"Objectionable"

Flag Salute

By Esther Popel

(Note: In a classroom in a Negro school a pupil gave as his news topic during the opening exercises of the morning, a report of the Princess Anne lynching of October 18, 1933. A brief discussion of the facts of the case followed, after which the student in charge gave this direction: Pupils, rise, and give the flag salute! They did so without hesitation!)

"I pledge allegiance to the flag"—
They dragged him naked
Through the muddy streets,
A feeble-minded black boy!
And the charge? Supposed assault
Upon an aged woman!

"Of the United States of America"—
One mile they dragged him
Like a sack of meal,
A rope around his neck,
A bloody ear
Left dangling by the patriotic hand
Of Nordic youth! (A boy of seventeen!)

"And to the Republic for which it stands"—
And then they hanged his body to a tree,
Below the window of the county judge
Whose pleadings for that battered human flesh
Were stifled by the brutish, raucous howls
Of men, and boys, and women with their babes,
Brought out to see the bloody spectacle
Of murder in the style of '33!
(Three thousand strong, they were!)

"One Nation, Indivisible"—
To make the tale complete
They built a fire—
What matters that the stuff they burned
Was flesh—and bone—and hair—
And reeking gasoline!

"With Liberty—and Justice"—
They cut the rope in bits
And passed them out,
For souvenirs, among the men and boys!
The teeth no doubt, on golden chains
Will hang
About the favored necks of sweethearts, wives,
And daughters, mothers, sisters, babies, too!
"For All!"

—*From* The Crisis, *August*, 1934.

Surgical Director

Dr. Louis T. Wright of New York was named recently as surgical director of Harlem hospital. Dr. Wright has been a member of the staff for many years. He is a police surgeon in New York with a rank of inspector, and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is also chairman of the board of the N.A.A.C.P.

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

"A Century Too Late"

Norfolk, Va., *Journal and Guide*

DURING the recent filibuster against the anti-lynching bill, Senator Bilbo, of Mississippi, proposed and argued at length the feasibility of a government sponsored deportation plan which would, if successful, "return" the 12 million colored people in America to Africa. In this connection the Winston-Salem (N.C.) *Journal* remarks editorially that the Senator "seems to have been born a century too late." It may not be in point, but we should like to add that it would have been much better if Mr. Bilbo had not been born at all.

The *Journal* goes on to say that many colored people in this country might find it profitable to emigrate to Liberia, and that quite a few have done so, "but the colored man cannot be bodily uprooted from our society today and transported enmasse to a new country. Whether or not our social structure is defective, the Negro is now an integral part of it."

Well said. It is just as logical to consider seriously the deportation of the heterogeneous racial elements from Europe, who began to settle here long after the black man got a foothold in the soil. Just as reasonable to talk of returning the Poles, the Scandinavians, the Irish, Italians, Germans and Spaniards.

Mr. Ernest Sevier Cox, of Richmond, who bi-ennially pesters the Virginia General Assembly with petitions and memorials which he imagines are in furtherance of what he terms the "repatriation" of colored people to "their native Africa," gets a shot in the arm everytime some one able to make the limelight, like Senator Bilbo, indulges in the fatuous pastime of pretending to seriously advocate the deportation of the American Negro.

We are not seeking repatriation. We were not exiled from Africa. Our ancestors—or some of them—were brought here on business with the earliest settlers. Our ancestors became very much mixed on account of the social behavior of Mr. Bilbo's relatives and other factors, and some millions of us would be more at home in Europe than we would be in Africa.

The suggestion that federal agents investigate lynchings and make report to the public is the strongest kind of endorsement of the work which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been doing since it took up the fight against mob murder. That the President now wants the inner story of mob murder told means that a keen judge of the public mind thinks the time is ripe for this horrible practice to be exposed fully.

There never was a time when lynching was defensible though every apologist for it felt the need of excusing the lynchers somehow, but could not because it was cowardly, insincere and blundering. The N.A.A.C.P. was a limited group, for the most part made up of people of small standing. Yet because it told the truth, it made headway against the monstrous evil.

There is a lesson in the swing of public opinion against this custom which used to be taken for granted. The attack upon it gained power because it was persisted in.—*The Call*, Kansas City, Mo.

Last week the Governor of Georgia was prevailed upon by the Governor of Michigan to drop extradition proceedings against James Jones. The legal counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., Attys. Dent and Sweet, who defended James Jones, presented Governor Murphy with the facts in the case and it is little wonder that Governor Rivers of Georgia was ashamed to further the fight for the youth's extradition. —Detroit, Mich., *Chronicle*.

The United States supreme court Monday, set aside a verdict of guilty against Joe Hale, a Kentucky Negro, because no Negroes were on the jury which convicted him of murder.

Just recently a circuit judge in Montgomery County, Missouri halted the trial of a Negro when the latter's attorney pointed out to the court that no Negroes were on the grand jury which indicted the defendant, nor were the names of any Negroes on the venire from which the petit jury was selected.—St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Mussolini's flirtation with ex-emperor Selassie has not as yet succeeded in wooing him back to Ethiopia. That sable son of the Queen of Sheba realizes, that the throne to him on the terms offered, would make him not only a puppet of the wily Italian, but also the target for some ambitious Abyssinian marksman.—Cincinnati, O., *Union*.

. . . Perhaps we are too thick-headed to follow the workings of the President's mind—or his peculiar reasons for being silent when the Senate filibusterers were choking the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill to death—but we are at least aware of the weight which his pronouncement will carry in building up needed national sentiment against "the Roman holidays" of the southland. It will be highly interesting to watch for developments in the Senate regarding the possible passage of a federal law against mob rule.—Cleveland, O., *Eagle*.

. . . While educational leaders and moulders of public opinion among the dominant race in this country are stressing vocational education for the masses of their young people and including such in their curricula, far too many Negro educational bigwigs either are in open opposition to such courses for Negro youths, or employ a cloven hand in discouraging the school authorities from inaugurating and maintaining similar courses for colored boys and girls.

Any system of so-called educational training which does not prepare its recipients for a life of service and which does not make them producers and social assets is missing the mark and should be consigned to the educational junkyard. . . .—*Houston Defender*, Houston, Tex.

No one could have sat in the Municipal Auditorium last Sunday afternoon and heard Marian Anderson, who has been hailed by the best musical critics as the "greatest singer of her time," without ascribing her as being not only the greatest singer of her time, but a messenger of racial good will. . . .

Miss Anderson, not only your race feels proud because of your accomplishments, but the white press in St. Louis acclaimed you as "The greatest mistress of the color of tone" of your time. With this encomium, we here and now extend to you an invitation for a return engagement. . . .—St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Angry Saxons and Negro Education

By Anna J. Cooper

A CONFESSION of faith, clear and unequivocal, from a U. S. Senator contains these words: "No statutory law, no organic law, no military law supersedes the law of racial necessity and social identity. We have no intention of ever admitting the colored man as our social equal and we can keep him in his place, his inferior social station, by keeping away from him."

And that's that.

A colored leader of white American thought, at once statesman and politician, has enunciated a policy enthusiastically hailed as workable: "The two races can be as separate as fingers and as solidly strong as the hand."

That, also, is that.

Now when the champions of either side shake hands before crossing swords in the ring, the one mutters: "We agree," eyeing the other grimly, "equal as fingers" (crossed at the time) "but *separate.*" And his prescient mind vitalizes the efficient thumb, firm and unyielding over mailed fists.

"We agree," the dark brother replies, "separate, but *equal!*" and he looks expectantly on the wriggling little fingers all set to pop over one by one, now with a knockout in the prize ring, now with a hundred meter dash in the Olympics. *"An American Negro youth ventures on to the stage occupied prominently by a Nazi dictator and steals the spot light from him for a little while"* says the Cleveland *Plain Dealer.*

A sweet singer, a wonder working chemist, a sacrificial hero emerging from the ghetto to charm and bless—"separate," but potentially identical the same elemental human, educable like the rest and capable of patriotic cooperation with any and all forces that make for righteousness in a democratic civilization. But here ensues a titanic struggle between the American conscience and expert efficiency, both represented by the dominant thumb among very unequal fingers and virtually conceding equality while demanding separation. *A race must have its leaders provided with a liberal education.* Hence a national Negro university is visioned in equipment and appurtenances equal to the best. Efficiency experts contrive attractive sinecures in officialdom, toothsome sops for Cerberus, guaranteed to keep that beast off at the approved distance from all movements in the life stream. Due honor and high praise are loudly acclaimed for Negro spirituals, Negro literature, Negro history, Negro "attempts" at art. But don't try to crash the gates on a play of Shakespeare or to listen in on a Wagnerian opera, or to study the marbles of Phidias and Praxiteles. Education *must* be separate, that is sure. The law of the Medes and Persians changeth not. Jim Crow in hotels and common carriers amounts to nothing unless you can segregate cultures. "The mind is its own place" and Education is its Maker.

The finale in this trilogy of the American saga is the offering made by Lord Bryce, by common consent the greatest analyst and commentator on our Commonwealth and a mighty wise counselor on modern democracies, whose suggestion after all may be the guiding thread out of this labyrinth of purposes. He says: "It needs something more than the virtue of a philosopher, it needs the tenderness of a saint to preserve the same courtesy and respect towards members of a backward race as are extended naturally to equals . . . As regards political rights, race and blood should not be made the ground of discrimination. Where the bulk of the colored race are obviously unfit for political power a qualification based on property and education might be established which should permit the upper section to enjoy the suffrage. Such qualifications would doubtless exclude some of the poorest and most ignorant whites, but it is better to face this difficulty than to wound and alienate the whole of the colored race by placing them without the pale of civic functions and duties. As regards social relations, law can do but little save in the way of expressing the view the state takes of how its members should behave to one another. Good feeling and good manners cannot be imposed by statute. When the educated sections of the dominant race realize how essential it is to the future of their country that the backward be helped forward and rendered friendly, their influence will by degrees filter down through the masses and efface the scorn they feel for the weaker.

"A philosopher may say 'let who will make the laws if I make the manners;' for where manners are wholesome the laws will be just and justly administered. Manners depend on sentiment and sentiment changes slowly. Still it changes. It has changed as regards torture. It has changed as regards slavery. The sentiment of race pride, the keenness of race rivalry has been intensified, but the sense of a common humanity has grown stronger. When we think of the problems which are now being raised by the contact of races, clouds seem to hang heavy on the horizon of the future; but light streams in when we remember that the spirit in which civilized states are preparing to meet those problems is higher and purer than it was when centuries ago the great outward movement of the European peoples began."

And that, undoubtedly, is that.

God give us leaders and teachers on both sides who, forgetting the flesh pots of Egypt and the spaghetti of Rome will join open palms in honest cooperation to work and pray for a better, nobler, truer America.

Letters from Readers

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:—Your editorial "We Lose, but We Win," so exactly puts the finger on the bright spot of promise that I must congratulate you. The editorial is far more than compensation; it is prognostication. Slowly, but surely, justice dawns, and this editorial is a harbinger. ". . . if winter come, can spring be far behind?"

T. V. SMITH

Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago

Chicago, Ill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:—I was very much impressed with the editorial in the April issue of THE CRISIS which points out the analogy of the situation of Jews in Nazi Germany with that of the Negroes in this, our own country, and have mentioned it to various people, who have been greatly interested, so much so that I have been asked for copies.

I don't know when I have seen an editorial—or in fact any article even—that has presented this inconsistent situation so succinctly and at the same time so honestly. I think it should have as wide a circulation as possible—especially in Cincinnati where we have a northern exposure with a southern psychology.

Will you please send me four (4) copies of this issue and I shall do my best to see that they are distributed among people who will make good use of them? Thank you.

MARY D. BRITE

Cincinnati, O.

Named Director of National Housing Conference

Mrs. Ernest A. Alexander has been named a member of the board of directors of the National Public Housing Conference for 1938. There are twenty-four directors and Mrs. Alexander is the first colored person ever named. Mrs. Alexander is also a member of the Y.W.C.A. public affairs committee and that of the N.A.A.C.P. She is treasurer of The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc.

Minnesota Coun[illegible]

The Minnesota Negro Council has issued its first annual report. The Council is composed of young progressive colored men and women who are attacking civil problems in the Twin Cities and throughout the state.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

N.A.A.C.P. Wins Ninth Supreme Court Case

The N.A.A.C.P. won its ninth victory in the U. S. supreme court April 11, when Joe Hale, a Negro boy of nineteen, had his conviction on a charge of murder set aside on the ground that McCracken county, Kentucky, in which he was convicted, has systematically barred Negroes from jury services for more than fifty years.

The case was argued before the supreme court March 28, by Charles H. Houston, special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., and Leon A. Ransom. The opinion was unanimous. This is the second case involving Negroes in which Justice Hugo Black has joined in a favorable decision. The first case involved picketing by the New Negro Alliance, of Washington, D. C. Justice Black concurred in the opinion there that Negroes had the right to picket under certain circumstances in an effort to get jobs.

Hale's case, like many which come to the N.A.A.C.P., was not turned over to the Association until time to appeal to the supreme court. The N.A.A.C.P. entered the case at the request of the Paducah, Kentucky, Colored Civic League. Hale is alleged to have killed a white man in Paducah in August, 1936.

In his argument to the supreme court on March 28, Mr. Houston cited an affidavit showing that the population of McCracken county was approximately 48,000, of which 8,000 were Negroes; that there were approximately 6,000 white persons and 700 Negroes fully qualified under Kentucky law for jury service, but that no Negroes had served on a jury in a state court in McCracken county in the past fifty years.

Out of ten cases taken up to the high court, the N.A.A.C.P. has lost only one. This was an appeal from the District of Columbia in a residential segregation case. The court held that no federal question was involved. The next case which the Association will take to the supreme court will be that of Gaines v. the University of Missouri, in which Lloyd Gaines, Negro graduate of Lincoln university (Mo.) is seeking entrance to the university law school.

N.A.A.C.P. Wins Reversal in Tennessee Murder Case

Lawyers representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People secured a reversal of the conviction of Bill Jack Bledsoe, in the Tennessee supreme court on a charge of killing a riding boss of the R. C. Denny plantation.

Bledsoe was convicted of killing George Stanford on the plantation, which is located about six miles from Milan, Tennessee. He received a sentence of twenty years in prison. All the evidence in the case seemed to support Bledsoe's contention that he shot in self-defense. Bledsoe will get a new trial.

Records of Senators On Anti-lynch Law Revealed

A record of the actions of each senator on anti-lynching legislation beginning with the spring of 1935 when the CostiganWagner bill came up for a vote, and ending with the vote on February 21, 1938, when the Wagner-Van Nuys bill was side-tracked, is being released by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Association has compiled the attitude of each senator, whether in favor of anti-lynching legislation or against, or neutral, on all votes beginning with April 26, 1935, to the present time.

The information is available for branches of the N.A.A.C.P. and for others who wish to check upon the activities of their senators with respect to this particular legislation.

President Roosevelt Sees Anti-Lynch Delegation

President Roosevelt conferred for twenty minutes on the morning of April 12 with a delegation of colored citizens which called to see him to register the disappointment of colored people over the side-tracking of the Gavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill and the silence of the White House during the six weeks' filibuster against the legislation.

Mr. Roosevelt talked frankly with the committee, which was headed by Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, and expressed the opinion that colored people and their friends interested in such legislation should continue to fight for it.

The long filibuster against the bill and the implications involved in it, especially the political implications, were discussed by the group.

In addition to Secretary White, the delegation included Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president of the Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, N. C.; Miss Frances Williams of the National Board of the Y.W.C.A., New York; Carl Murphy, editor of the Baltimore *Afro-American;* Dr. George E. Haynes of the Race Relations Committee of the Federal Council of Churches; and A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and of the National Negro Congress.

Women's Club Contributes $200 to N.A.A.C.P.

A contribution of $200 to the work of the N.A.A.C.P. was made on April 12 by the Woman's Fortnightly Club of Paterson, N. J. Mrs. Frank A. Walker is president of the club; Mrs. Irene Hailstock, vice-president; Mrs. Romie Jackson, treasurer; and Mrs. Pauline Barnes, secretary.

At the meeting at which the presentation was made, the club also contributed substantial sums to the Y.W.C.A. in Paterson, which draws no color line and accepts colored women and girls in its building and summer camps; to the tuberculosis clinic of the Public Health Service of Passaic county; and to the tumor and cancer clinic of one of the hospitals of Paterson.

The Paterson daily newspapers gave great prominence to the story of these gifts by a colored women's club to welfare agencies.

Kansans Win First Step In Swimming Pool Fight

The first step in what is expected to be a long legal fight was won April 15 when the Kansas supreme court refused to throw out the suit brought by the Newton branch of the N.A.A.C.P. to compel city officials to admit Negroes to the municipal swimming pool.

There have been smaller skirmishes over the use of the pool for the past two years. The Newton branch, of which Samuel Ridley is president, finally brought suit in behalf of Donald E. Kern. It was a petition for a writ of mandamus directing the city officials to admit Kern to the pool.

Attorneys for the city sought to have the motion quashed, but the state supreme court ruled that there was ground for action and that the city of Newton must answer in thirty days. The Newton branch has retained Elisha Scott, famous Topeka lawyer, as chief counsel. The pool was built with city funds secured through a bond issue voted at a general election. The branch contends that since colored citizens of Newton pay taxes and voted for the bond issue

for a municipal pool, they are being denied their rights illegally in being barred from using the pool.

Last Houston Martyr Freed from Prison

Stewart W. Phillips, the last of the "Houston Martyrs," the colored soldiers who were imprisoned because of their resentment against the treatment accorded them by Houston, Texas, citizens during the war, was freed from Leavenworth penitentiary, April 19.

Phillips, overjoyed at his release, sent the following telegram to Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in New York City:

"Just freed this morning. Am overjoyed and my appreciation knows no bounds. Will write later. Thanks a million."

It is a coincidence that Phillips should be sending his good news from Kansas City, for the campaign to release these men was the high point of the annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. held here in 1923. A feature of the conference was a pilgrimage of all the delegates to Leavenworth prison to visit the men and pledge them support until every one was out from behind the bars. In April that pledge was redeemed.

The N.A.A.C.P. thus ends its long continued and steady campaign for the pardon or parole of the men whom all colored people regard as martyrs, but whom the law branded as rioters. The Association never ceased activity with each new President and Secretary of War. Phillips would have been paroled years ago except that he escaped and was a free, but hunted, man for five years. He finally gave himself up and returned to prison so he could win a parole and enjoy his freedom in peace. His escape counted against his record and therefore he was the last to be released.

Christmas Seal Sale Passes $5000 Goal

The Christmas seal sale has passed the goal of $5000. It was the final report of $51 from the Detroit youth council chairman, Miss Lorrayne Porter, which sent the sale over the $5000 mark. The total raised by the Detroit youth councils is $251.

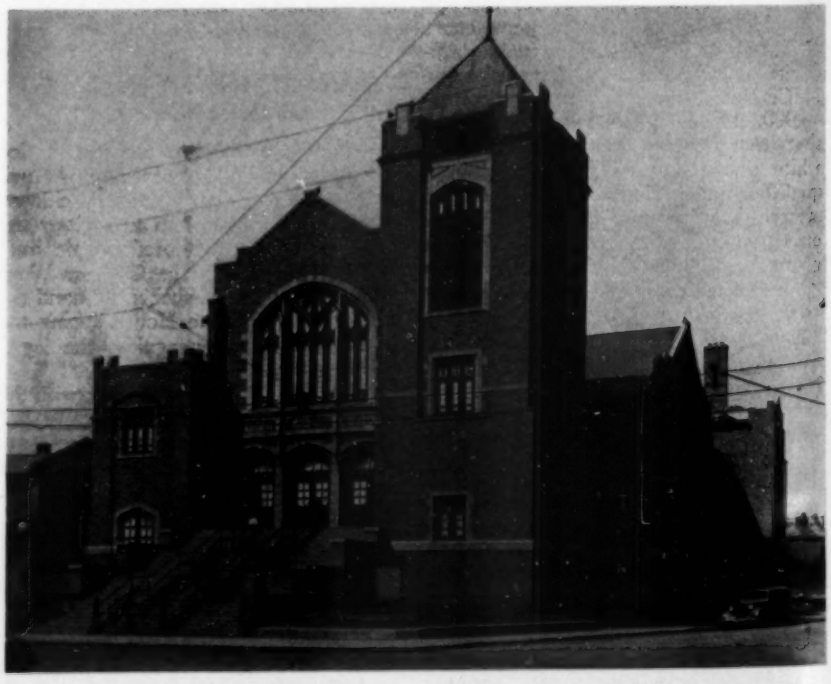
As yet a number of the branches have not made complete reports. It is hoped that these reports will be made soon in order that the Christmas seal sale accounts can be closed.

Additional complete reports of $5.00 or more from Christmas seal chairmen in the senior branches are as follows:

Arkansas: Texarkana, Mrs. Lena P. Jones, $15.70; Pine Bluff, Mrs. Angeline Dans Bailey, $23.25; Colorado: Colorado Springs, Mrs. Paul Goffman, $6; Florida: Tampa, Rev. M. D. Potter, $35.25; New Jersey: Newark, Robert Wheeler, $67.24; Orange, Mrs. Mary C. Woody, $39.17; New York: Poughkeepsie, Miss Lucy Graves, $10; Pennsylvania: Willow Grove, Mrs. Mary Williams, $5; Tennessee: Nashville, Mrs. B. F. Cox, $25; Rhode Island: Providence, Joseph G. LeCount, $5.30.

Additional incomplete reports of $5 and up from branches are:

Alabama: Mobile, Mrs. Emma Freeman, $8.50; Arkansas: Little Rock, Mrs. H. L. Porter, $5; Connecticut: Bridgeport, Mrs. L. Woods, $20.60; Hartford, Mrs. Mary Lee, $8; Dela-



The Columbus, O., branch is hard at work preparing to entertain the 29th annual NAACP conference there June 28–July 3, inclusive. At top is shown Jesse G. Dickinson, branch president, in the newly-opened office of the branch at 1026 East Long street. Below is a view of the Shiloh Baptist church, where the conference will meet

ware: Wilmington, Miss Pauline A. Young, $17.50; Florida: Miami, Mrs. T. R. Cullen, $7.50; Georgia: Atlanta, Mrs. Ida Henderson, $21.55; Augusta, Mrs. M. B. Braxton, $12.25; Illinois: Bloomington, N. J. Henderson, $5; Evanston, Mrs. Loretta Stewart, $7; Rockford, Mr. E. C. Richardson, $11; Iowa, Waterloo, Dr. L. B. Furgeson, $5; Kansas: Topeka, Miss Annabel Sawyer, $10.50; Newton, Roy O. Wagner, $13.80; Kentucky: Louisville, Mrs. Bessie S. Etherly, $36; Louisiana: Lake Charles, George L. Thomas, $6.18; Monroe, Mrs. H. C. McClanahan, $20; Plaquemine, Marshall Johnson, $12; Michigan: Detroit, Mrs. Jennie Young, $20; Saginaw, Mrs. Jennie H. Patterson, $7.46; Missouri: St. Louis, G. C. Turner, $48.94; New Jersey: Jersey City, Mrs. Mary Pope, $50; New York: Albany, Mrs. Ellen S. Kell, $22.64; Buffalo, Mrs. Amelia G. Anderson, $7; New Rochelle, Mrs. Lillian Graves, $31.23; North Carolina: Durham, Dr. J. N. Mills, $13; Oklahoma: Idabel, Miss Maysie Richardson, $5; Pennsylvania: Bryn Mawr, Mrs. Cora Sneed, $13.75; McKeesport, Mrs. Virginia M. Gittens, $8.50; Mercer County, Mrs. Raymond Jackson, $5.47; Rhode Island: Newport, Leroy Williams, $15; South Carolina: Florence, Miss Erline Goff, $20.21; Texas: Houston, Mrs. P. O. Smith, $16.25; Virginia: Porstmouth, Mrs. Hazel W. Reid, $15.60; West Virginia: Gary, Miss Elizabeth Anderson, $33.13.

Mrs. Memphis T. Garrison, Gary, W. Virginia, mother of the N.A.A.C.P. Christmas seal idea, raised $39.47 from her sale in Gary, W. Va.

Columbus Prepares for Annual Conference

The Columbus, Ohio, branch, under the presidency of Jesse G. Dickinson, is making extensive preparations for the entertainment of the twenty-ninth annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P., June 28–July 3.

Headquarters of the conference will be in the Shiloh Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon and Hamilton avenues. All of the day sessions and the evening mass meetings will be held there except the Sunday mass meeting, July 3, which will be held in the municipal auditorium.

Registration and business correspondence incident to the conference will be carried on from the office of the branch, located at 1026 East Long street.

Already the following chairmen of committees have been appointed by President Dickinson: finance, James Milton Trotter; housing and registration, Miss Juanita D. Davis; publicity, Barbee Wm. Durham; churches, B. E. Slaughter; music, Mrs. Mayme G. Artis; ushers, Earle Williamson; sale of annual reports, Miss Betty King; broadcasting, Elsie Austin; notification, Mrs. Thelma Skelton; entertainment, Percy I. Lowery.

Another large convention will be meeting in Columbus on the identical dates of the N.A.A.C.P. conference, and so branches of the Association are advised to elect their delegates early, so that housing may be arranged.

State Conferences Meet

The Southern Regional Conference of N.A.A.C.P. branches will meet in Mobile, Alabama, May 6–7. Walter White will speak at the opening meeting May 6.

The Virginia State Conference will meet in Richmond, May 7, and again Mr. White, returning to New York from the South, will be the principal speaker.

The New Jersey State Conference will meet in Princeton in a one-day session, May 7.

The New York State Conference will meet in New Rochelle, May 6–8. James Egert Allen, the state president, will make his annual address May 7, and it will be followed by round table discussions on housing and discrimination on employment in public and private industries. An oratorical contest will be held May 6. Among the speakers at the sessions will be Assemblymen William T. Andrews and Robert W. Justice, and H. A. Tynes.

Boston Raises $1800

Incomplete returns from the spring membership campaign of the Boston, Mass., branch, show a total of $1800 raised by both senior and youth groups. Irwin T. Dorch is president of the branch. The campaign was directed by Miss Juanita E. Jackson of the national office.

Texas Supreme Court Reverses White Case

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, on April 6, reversed the conviction of Bob White, a colored man who had been convicted of rape and sentenced to death. The evidence against White was of the flimsiest character, but the court reversed the conviction on a technical ruling that the defendant had not been given the full advantage of law in filing his bill of exceptions to the testimony against him.

The appeal was carried up to the states highest court by the Houston branch of the N.A.A.C.P., assisted by the Dallas branch.

Branch News

The regular monthly meeting of the **Huntington, W. Va.,** branch was held April 3 at the 16th Street Baptist church. Methods were devised to interest colored people of the community in federal housing and slum clearance project. Plans were outlined for a May festival.

The **Pueblo, Colo.,** branch had an interesting program on March 6 at the Eighth Street Baptist church. Miss Martha Moore delivered a paper, "The Value of Negro History in Everyday Life." Mrs. H. A. Rogers delivered a talk on "The Present Outlook for the Negro in the United States." Miss Fuchsia Womack read a paper on "The Economic Problems Concerning America Today."

The **Marshalltown, Ia.,** branch met on Sunday afternoon, March 20, at the Second Baptist church for a brief business session, at which time the following newly elected officers were installed: I. L. Brown, president; J. P. Burtan, vice-president; Rose Bannon, recording secretary; Ealy Morrow, financial secretary; John Summerville, treasurer. J. P. Jones and Arman Morrow were retained as members of the board of directors, including the chairmen of the various departments.

A program in charge of Mrs. Willa Brown, chairman of the music department, was rendered. The group sang the National Negro Anthem after which Mrs. Willa Brown led in a study of the life of J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, authors of the hymn. The executive board meeting was held April 12 at the home of Mrs. S. Brown.

The business meeting of the **Winston-Salem, N. C.,** branch was held at the Y.W.C.A. on March 20. President Leo D. Campt presided.

The **Oklahoma City, Okla.,** branch had its regular meeting on March 8 and passed a resolution protesting the reactionary resolution of the Women's Democratic Council of the city for condemning the mixing of colored and white youths at a friendly social gathering sponsored by the Oklahoma youth legislature. The resolution was printed in the daily paper.

With the assistance of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., the **St. Louis, Mo.,** branch has conducted a ten-day membership campaign which up to press time had resulted in 1,500 new members being enrolled. The drive will end with a tea for the workers at Poro college.

The **Tacoma Wash.,** branch held its monthly meeting at the Bethlehem Baptist church on Sunday, March 20. The guest speaker was J. A. C. Washington who spoke on "Political Trends."

The **New Orleans, La.,** branch will hold its membership drive from May 8 to May 20.

On March 20, the **Houston, Tex.,** branch celebrated the first anniversary of its reorganization at a meeting in the A.M.E. church. Dr. A. S. Jackson, president of Paul Quinn college and general commissioner of education for the A.M.E. church, was the speaker.

A vocational program for Negro students was presented at the Topeka high school

(Continued on next page)

on March 24 under the sponsorship of the **Topeka, Kans.**, branch and the Topeka Provident association.

The **Jamaica, N. Y.**, branch held a mass meeting in the Jamaica town hall on March 23 in the interest of seven Negroes under arrest as a result of a fatal Southside street fight several months ago. Dr. John A. Singleton, president of the branch, and J. Foster Phillips, chairman of the defense committee, were in charge of the meeting.

The **Columbus, O.**, branch, at its regular March meeting, discussed methods of obtaining civil rights for Negroes in Columbus.

The **Cleveland, O.**, branch presented Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., on March 21 at the Antioch Baptist church. Mr. White spoke on the recent activities of the Association in conducting the anti-lynching fight.

Miss L. Pearl Mitchell of Cleveland was the guest speaker for the **Canton, Ohio**, branch at a meeting in St. Paul's A.M.E. church on Sunday, March 27. Miss Mitchell is a member of the national board of the N.A.A.C.P.

The monthly forum meeting of the **Akron, Ohio**, branch was held on March 27 at the Second Baptist church. T. R. Eaton, Chicago sales expert, spoke on "Business and Salesmanship."

The **Long Branch, N. J.**, unit of the N.A.A.C.P. held a reorganization meeting at the Second Baptist church on March 24. Thurgood Marshall of the national legal staff and E. Frederic Morrow, branch co-ordinator, were the principal speakers. Many new members joined the branch at the meeting.

At the monthly meeting of the **Elizabeth, N. J.**, branch, A. S. Puryear of Newark, manager of the Douglass and Harrison apartments in that city, was the principal speaker. The meeting was held in the Union Baptist church with Dr. William H. Brown, the new president, presiding.

The **Petersburg, Va.**, branch held its regular meeting March 1 at the Community Center on Harding St. Since the last meeting twelve persons joined the branch, making the total membership of the recent drive 167. A letter of commendation from the national office was read to the members and workers for the excellent spirit manifested in the N.A.A.C.P.

The **South Boston, Va.**, branch presented Dr. H. A. Hunt of Ft. Valley, Ga., for 34 years member of the Ft. Valley Industrial and Normal school, on March 26 to an audience in the Halifax training school. The Rev. L. W. Smith of Red Oak. Charlotte county, was master of ceremonies. Dr. D. V. Estil, president of the branch, also spoke.

The spring membership drive of the **Richmond, Va.**, branch was launched at a special meeting on March 11 at 406 Gainsboro avenue. J. A. Reynolds, president, conducted the meeting. Miss Justina Spencer is chairman of the membership campaign, with Mrs. M. B. Paxton, Mrs. L. C. Downing, Richard Birks and I. J. Eldridge assisting.

The **Toledo, Ohio**, branch presented Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., at the Saturday Night Open Forum in Robinson junior high school on March 22. Mr. White spoke on "Behind the Scenes of the Anti-Lynching Bill."

On to Columbus!

IF ever there was a year in which the N.A.A.C.P. needed to discuss action calculated to assist the Negro toward the goals he seeks, this is the year. The 29th annual conference of the association to be held in Columbus, O., June 28 to July 3, therefore, becomes a gathering of the utmost importance. The 1938 congressional elections are in the offing and the campaign of 1940 is being shaped now. Momentous world changes are taking place. National and international issues are arising sharply and crying for decision. Each branch, youth council, and college chapter of the association should plan to have delegates at Columbus to assist in the deliberations and decisions. Elect Columbus conference delegates now!

The **Sharon, Pa.**, branch held an open meeting in the Morris Chapel A.M.E. church on Sunday, March 13. An interesting program on the work of the N.A.A.C.P. was rendered. The meeting marked the opening of the 1938 membership campaign.

On March 10 the **Johnstown, Pa.**, branch held its election of officers for the year. The following were elected: Columbus Quarrles, president; Henry Bundy, vice-president; W. S. Leftwich, treasurer; Laura E. Cook, recording secretary; and Mary Sedgwick, corresponding secretary.

The **Staten Island. N. Y.**, branch opened its membership campaign on March 14 at a meeting at the Shiloh A.M.E. Zion church. The drive will end April 22 with a mass meeting in St. Phillip's Baptist church. The Rev. A. Clayton Powell of Abyssinian Baptist church will address the mass meeting.

The main business of the monthly meeting of the **Fresno, Calif.**, branch held on March 27 at the Carter Memorial church was the report of standing committees and the executive committee. New committees were appointed to function for the year. Rev. C. A. Byrd, president, presided at the meeting.

The **Beloit, Wisc.**, branch held its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, April 3 at the Emanuel Baptist church.

Dean William Pickens, director of branches of the N.A.A.C.P., addressed a mass meeting of youth of all races at the First Congregational church on Sunday, March 27. His topic was "The American Race Problem and the Future of Democracy." The **Portland, Ore.**, branch, headed by Edgar Williams, was in charge.

The **Boston, Mass.**, branch presented the "Southland Singers," fourteen male and female voices, in a special program over WEEI on Sunday afternoon, April 3. The group sang spirituals, folk songs and songs of the South.

Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., addressed a meeting in the St. John's church, Sunday, April 3. This meeting marked the opening of the annual drive for new members of the **Springfield, Mass.**, branch. George C. Gordon, president of the branch, presided at the meeting.

Dr. Wesley Jones, president of the **Omaha, Neb.**, branch, spoke on "The Rights of Citizens," at the Urban League community center for the educational forum of the National Negro Congress on Sunday, March 27.

A short talk, "Ethiopia from the Inside," by the Rev. R. Henry Gross, pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, and a brief violin recital by Mrs. Ruth Bell Dade with Miss Flossie M. Freedom as accompanist, were the features for the meeting of the **New Bedford, Mass.**, branch at its meeting on March 18.

A public forum on "Non-Employment of Negroes—Ways and Means to End It" was held in the Olney street Baptist church on March 15. The meeting was under the auspices of the **Providence, R. I.**, branch.

The **Jersey City, N. J.**, branch is preparing to launch its spring membership drive on Monday, April 18. The drive opens with a big mass meeting at the Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Julia Townes is directing the drive. The branch is also busy collecting funds for the Ira Collins case. To date more than $100 has been raised by the branch and citizens of Jersey City. On March 17, the Rev. E. P. Dixon, president of the branch. was tended a surprise party by organizations and friends in appreciation of his splendid work in Jersey City.

The Zerubbabel Lodge, No. 53 B'nai B'rith celebrated their 75th anniversary dinner at the Chamber of Commerce Sunday evening, March 20, at 6:30 p. m. All nationalities and races were represented. J. S. Brown, mmbership chairman of the **Rochester, N. Y.**, branch represented the N.A.A.C.P. and the Negro.

BRANCHES

1. **Conduct your spring campaign for new members**
2. **Elect as many delegates as possible to the Columbus conference**
3. **Get on the Honor Roll—send your apportionment to the national office before June 25**

N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council News

Youth Councils Prepare For Annual Conference

Preparations are under way for the youth section of the twenty-ninth annual conference of the association in Columbus, Ohio, June 28 to July 3.

More than 300 youth delegates are expected from the youth councils and college chapters. Already, conference committees are being appointed by youth groups to devise ways and means of raising funds to send delegates.

The youth section of the conference will meet separately during the morning sessions, coming together with the senior section for a joint meeting in the afternoons. The discussions will center around employment, civil liberties, education, and lynching.

Aid Hensley Case

The Cleveland, Ohio, youth council, under the leadership of the president, Beatrice Avery Bates, is cooperating with the senior branch and the Ohio State Conference in raising funds for the defense of Edward Hensley of Elyria, Ohio, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of murdering a white woman. Two white youths confessed to the crime, and both were declared insane. One committed suicide, and the other was placed in an asylum and has since been released.

The youth council membership chairman is Madelyn Beauford. The campaign dates are the same as those of the senior branch, May 9 to 25.

Walter White Guest of Detroit Councils

The six Detroit youth councils gave a tea March 20 in honor of Walter White, executive secretary of the association, who spoke at an afternoon mass meeting for the senior branch. Miss Sarah Graves was in charge of arrangements.

The youth councils have launched their spring program. The Bradhurst youth council held a debate on Thursday, March 17, on the subject, "Resolved, that the National Labor Relations Board be empowered to enforce arbitration of all industrial disputes." Miss Betty Payne of Marygrove College, and Dave Baynes, student at the University of Detroit, are the coaches of the youth council debating team.

The North End youth council sponsored a debate at the Northern high school, March 22, on the subject, "Resolved, that Negroes should join labor unions."

The Central youth council committee sponsored a program March 16 at the Northville Sanatorium.

The Detroit youth councils promoted an Easter Sunday Matinee Dance at the Mayfair Ballroom for the purpose of raising funds for sending delegates to the annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, June 28 to July 3.

New Jersey Youth Conference, May 21–22

The youth council in Montclair, N. J., has planned a week-end conference to be held May 21 and 22 for interested youth throughout New Jersey. This conference is an annual activity which the council has sponsored. The council also issues a monthly mimeographed newspaper which is enjoying a wide circulation.

Would Probe Civil Service in California

The youth council of the Sacramento, Calif., branch wrote a letter of commendation to the editor of the Sacramento *Union* for his editorial, "The White Man's Burden," which flayed racial discrimination in California civil service. The youth council further urged an investigation of the practices whereby racial minority groups are discriminated against in civil service.

Youngstown Installs Officers

The new officers of the youth council of the Youngstown, Ohio, branch were installed at a special meeting March 19 in the Belmont Y.W.C.A. The officers are, Wesley Dobson, president; William Pride, vice-president; C. D. Munay and Flossie Herrington, secretaries; Ethel McCain, treasurer. An intensive spring membership campaign is planned by the council.

Additional Youth Council Christmas Seal Reports

Youth councils which have reported on Christmas seals since the last issue of THE CRISIS are as follows:

Alabama: Mobile, William Powell, $8.25; *California:* Oakland, E. S. Thomas, $5; *New Jersey:* Jersey City, Christine Seymour, $15; *New York:* Jamaica, Anna Mae Tyler, $8.35; *North Carolina:* Gastonia, Miss Eva White, $2.50; *Ohio:* Canton, Miss Betty Jane Blueford, $4.10; Cleveland, Miss Leola Johnston, $12.25; Youngstown, Mrs. Minnie L. Anderson, $6.75; *Oklahoma:* Okmulgee, E. Marion Russell, $16; Tulsa, Edna N. Kimble, $6.20; *Pennsylvania:* Philadelphia, Gwendolyn R. Pasco, $18.25; *West Virginia:* Charleston, $13.55.

Biographies of Negro leaders, past and contemporary, in various fields, were reported on and discussed by members of the Springfield, Mass., youth council in observance of Negro History Week, February 15 at the Third Baptist Social Center, 151 Walnut St.

The Muskogee, Okla., youth council was the host to the youth section of the Oklahoma State Conference of branches at its annual meeting, April 28 to 30.

A debate on the qestion, "Shall the United States Remain Isolated?" was the feature of the April 8 meeting of the youth council in Muskegon, Mich., at the Bethesda Baptist church. Youth council members from Grand Rapids, Mich., were guests. Miss Norene Brightwell was mistress of ceremonies.

Reports are continuing to come into the office concerning the Second National Youth Demonstration Against Lynching on Friday, February 11.

The Staten Island, N. Y., youth council held their meeting at the St. Phillips Baptist church, Faber Street, Port Richmond. The Rev. A. Johnson gave the main address. Edna Morgan, former president of the youth council, reviewed the work of the association, and told the story of its fight against "lynch law." Ruth Oliver presided at the meeting.

In Rahway, New Jersey, a big city-wide mass meeting, interracial in character, was held at the Trinity M.E. church on Friday, February 11. A series of telegrams were sent from the meeting to U. S. Senators William H. Smathers and John Milton of New Jersey, urging that they vote for cloture on the anti-lynching bill. A comprehensive description of the development of lynching from early colonial days when the Lynch brothers, Charles and John, presided over courts in Virginia, was given by the Rev. W. Q. Welch, a graduate of Livingstone college and Union Theological Seminary. He was introduced by the Rev. J. W. P. Collier, pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. church. Theodore Shell, president of the youth council, presided, with John Madden, senior branch president, cooperating.

Briefs

Melvin Johnson, editor of the Newark *Herald*, spoke on the Ira Collins case on March 1 at a meeting of the youth council of the Orange, N. J.,

branch at the Oakwood avenue Y.W.C.A.

The Morristown, N. J., youth council met at the home of Clifford Burton of Cobb Place, February 28 and among the future activities planned was a spring musicale, which will feature prominent colored musicians. A report of the youth section of the New Jersey State Conference of Branches held in East Orange was given by the state secretary, Miss Lois Alexander.

A youth council has been started by the Elizabeth, N. J., branch of the association. Dr. William H. Brown is the director.

Seaton W. Manning, representing the Boston youth council, spoke February 13 at the Bethany Congregational church on "The Political and Economic Implications of the Federal Anti-lynching Bill."

Membership Campaigns Start

Throughout the country, youth councils are in the midst of their spring membership campaigns. The national goal is to double the youth membership in the association.

The Boston youth council organized a youth division of the Boston branch campaign, and under the direction of Reynold Costa has raised nearly $300. Among the captains heading teams were Myrtle G. Campbell, president of the youth council, Josephine Williams, Gladys Wood, Beatrice Bolling, Janet Scott, Rita Campbell, Margaret O'Banyoun, Theresa Alexander, Victor Bynoe, Roger Williams, Randolph Chase, Reynold Burch, and Irving Ashby.

Other youth councils which have organized campaigns to date are, Plainfield, N. J.; Springfield, Mass.; Muskogee, Okla.; Houston, Tex.; Dallas, Tex.; Jersey City, N. J.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Staten Island, N. Y.; Charleston, W. Va.; Cleveland, O.; Portsmouth, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Jackson, Miss.; and Baltimore, Md.

Weekly Broadcasts

Every Sunday at 1 p.m., over Station WEEI, the youth council of the Boston branch presents the Southland Singers in a fifteen minute broadcast, dedicated to the work of the association. The choral unit, under the direction of Lycurgus Lockman, has been receiving favorable comments from the greater Boston area.

These broadcasts have been arranged through the efforts of Reynold Costa, chairman of the speakers bureau of the Boston council. Recently, the council concluded a sixteen-week broadcast over Station WORL, under the theme "Negro Youth Seek." Each broadcast was devoted to the various opportunities, which Negro youth are seeking, such as equal education opportunities, equalization of teachers' salaries, jobs, representation in government, fair legislation, and the like. These broadcasts have been a means of keeping the Boston community N.A.A.C.P. conscious.

MISS LORRAYNE PORTER

Chairman, Detroit youth council Christmas seal sale

Send THE CRISIS to a friend

Hotel Drops Bar

The Fort Pitt hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa., made an agreement with the International Workers Order to accept Negro and White delegates without discrimination during the biennial convention of the I.W.O., April 23–30. The Fort Pitt last November refused to accommodate Negro delegates attending the convention of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

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BOOK NEWS and REVIEWS

ELIZABETH PERRY CANNON and Helen Adele Whiting have written a book for children called "Country Life Stories." This book has been released through E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York. The book is intended to "serve as a social studies reader for pupils on the elementary level in small rural schools."

Elizabeth Cannon is an instructor, Department of Education, Spelman college and Atlanta university. Helen Whiting is State Supervisor of Colored Elementary Schools, Georgia.

Eva Knox Evans has done another charming job with her new book, "Key Corner." This latest work is written for older children, and is based on her own experience in a Negro country community. Mrs. Evans helped to create a new understanding of Negro children through her other books, "Araminta," and "Jerome Anthony." "Key Corner" is just as delightful. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, Publisher.

Cedric Dover, of London, young Eurasian author, whose book "Half-Caste" created a sensation here and abroad, has sent to THE CRISIS several of his books for sale in America. The book sells for $2.75. Mr. Dover spent several months in the United States gathering material for a new book. He sailed for England in February.

THE CRISIS will review for its readers next month the following books:

The Colour Bar, by Peter Nielsen.
Hello America, by César Saerchinger.
U.S.A., by John Dos Passos.
The Collapse of the Confederacy, by Charles Wesley.
Journeyman, by Erskine Caldwell.

RICHARD WRIGHT
He wrote "Uncle Tom's Children"

Reviews

THE NEGRO COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE by Charles S. Johnson. University of North Carolina Press. $3.00. 399 pp.

The first Negro college graduate in America was John Russwurm who, shortly afterwards, added to this accidental distinction that of being founder of *Freedom's Journal*, the first Negro newspaper. He was graduated from Bowdoin in Maine, in 1826. For twenty years after this there were only seven more Negro graduates of recognized colleges, and in 1860, at the outbreak of the Civil War, there had been but twenty-eight.

Thus begins Charles S. Johnson's revealing record of Negro graduates covering a period from the time of Russwurm down through 1936. The book analyzes the occupational distribution and educational history of the graduates, of vocational choices of Negro high school students, and attempts to predict future trends in higher education for Negroes.

More than 43,000 college and professional graduates formed the basis of the study, while a distributed sample of 5,500 graduates were used for an intensive analyses.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson is director of the department of social science in Fisk university. His latest work is a valuable source book for factual material on the Negro college and professional graduate.

E. F. M.

UNCLE TOM'S CHILDREN by Richard Wright. Harpers, New York. $2.50.

To Sinclair Lewis, Harry Scherman and Lewis Gannett belong the credit of discovering the writing genius of Richard Wright. These distinguished gentlemen chose "Uncle Tom's Children," as the winner of the $500 Federal Writers Project prize offered by *Story Magazine*.

Richard Wright has presented in a dramatic and graphic fashion, the trail of tragedy and despair that follow mob violence. He exposes to the world the plight of the Negro in areas where race hatred rules. Few writers have been able to paint such a realistic and didactic picture in story form.

The first of the four stories tells of a group of roustabouts who unwittingly frighten a white woman who happens to pass near a swimming hole. They have a desperate fight with her escort who tries to kill them, though they have been guilty of nothing more serious than trespassing on white property. Shortly, some are dead, and the others facing certain and uncompromising death by the mob. The second story tells of a colored man who wants to get his wife to a hospital during a flood, and who dies after his encounter with the officials in charge. In the third story the flames of hatred are fed by a white man's attack.

In the fourth, a minister's attempt to get his people food enmeshes the community in racial conflict.

"Uncle Tom's Children" definitely puts the onus of villainy on the other foot. That is to say that the author depicts white men as brutes and anti-social persons, rather than the Negro, who has in press and book, held the role far too long. We predict this book to become a best seller.

E. F. M.

(NOTE: "Uncle Tom's Children" can be ordered through THE CRISIS. *Send remittance to 69 Fifth Avenue.*)

RECONSTRUCTION by James S. Allen. International Publishers, New York. 256 pp. $2.00.

In "Reconstruction," James S. Allen makes a juster, more accurate and cleaner estimate of the various social forces at work in the South following the Civil War than has ever been

(*Continued on next page*)

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made by a historian whose book has been used in the American schools. For obvious reasons, it has been customary in the United States to rewrite American history for presentation in the class room. The social interpretations are always directly or indirectly dictated by the needs of the ruling class. In this case, the question is more complicated because of the Negroes in the South. Below the Mason-Dixon line it is not only necessary to serve capitalist interests on the basis of the exploitation of white labor. The Negro workers must be exploited as well—and placed at a lower economical level than the whites in order to separate them—preventing them from joining easily on any social or political issue. How does this affect the writing of text books on American history, the reader may ask. But to ask the question is to answer it. White and black children alike—particularly in the South—must be made to see the Reconstruction period in a totally different light from that dictated by fact. James S. Allen has done a good service to the Negro people in exposing unscrupulous historians of the American South. The true role of the Negro masses in their fight for democracy after the Civil War is discussed in full. Democracy was not established in the South as a result of the Civil War—in spite of the heroic efforts of the Negro people—for that fight is yet being made.

NORMAN MACLEOD

NIGHT AT HOGWALLOW by Theodore Strauss. Little, Brown and Company. 174 pp. $1.25.

"Night at Hogwallow" is one of the five novelettes chosen for publication from 1,340 manuscripts entered in the Little, Brown and Company's novelette contest. This is the first published work by Mr. Strauss, who in the past six years has been living and working in New York, spending most of his time as he says, "learning how to write." The book is a fascinating account of the trials and tribulations of a construction gang building a road through a section of the South. These men are characteristic of the workmen found on all road gangs and they work and play and drink hard and have their affairs with women. The plot of the story is centered around a Negro laborer named Caesar who is acceptable enough as a laborer but is properly reprimanded and put in his place whenever he attempts to wisecrack with the rest of the gang about women. The theme in some respects is the usual one, leading up to rioting and killing.

This is a story of an indiscreet young girl whose indiscretions involved Caesar, who at the time of the commission of the crime was miles away with another workman loading a truck. This incident leads to a bloody fight between the town's people and the construction gang. The boss of the construction gang, characteristic of this type of southern man, is not particularly interested in the guilt or innocence of Caesar, but rather in how much this misunderstanding affects the completion of his job. The boss, therefore, is forced by circumstances to pit his strength and that of his gang against the town's people, who have come to lynch Caesar, in order that he might prevent the town's people from routing his construction gang out of town thus breaking his contract.

The pitched battle between the town's people and the gang is a gory, bitter struggle. Men, women and children participate and many are ruthlessly shot and slugged down like animals. Every known guise is used to hide Caesar from the infuriated mob. The onslaught proves to be too great and finally he is killed along with some others who, inadvertently, though gallantly, have defended him.

This is a fascinating story and well worth the hour or two necessary to read it. The story brings out in bold relief the old story of "the usual crime" fastened upon some innocent Negro who at the time the crime is committed may be many miles away. The story likewise does a fine job in depicting various characters often found in a southern construction gang. On the whole, Mr. Strauss has done a very able job by putting into story form the hopeless plight of a downtrodden Negro in the still unreconstructed South.

E. FREDERIC MORROW

THE HIDDEN LINCOLN from the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon. Edited by Emanuel Hertz. 461 pages. Viking Press, N. Y. $5.00.

"The Hidden Lincoln" unveils for the first time to the world intact, the letters and papers of William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, who spent a lifetime gathering documents and anecdotes about his cherished friend.

Herndon always had in mind the possibility of writing a biography of Lincoln, but he never quite got around to it. However, the idea probably intensified the search for material. He got the testimony of scores of people who had known Lincoln long before he was President. Hence, they are the intimate, tender, revealing stories about this humble man. Despite the fact that other biographers have from time to time used material from the papers of Herndon, this book offers more revelations about the life of Lincoln than any that has appeared for a long time.

Lincoln has too sacred a niche in American life to have his lustre dimmed by the revelations of biographers. But even he must suffer as all great people must, from the enthusiasm and hero worship of writers who can make stories fit their fancy. It is apparent that Herndon believed one thing in one year—and the opposite in another year.

However, Herndon's one passion was to reveal Lincoln to the American people as he knew him from alpha to omega. Mr. Hertz champions this view, and so to him as well as to Herndon, students of Lincoln are indebted for this noteworthy work.

E. F. M.

ACTION AT AQUILA by Hervey Allen. Farrar & Rinehart, New York. 369 pp. $2.50.

Fact and fiction combine to make "Action At Aquila" one of the popular novels of the day. It is romance smacking of tears and glory-death and victory. It is a story of the Civil War with today's detached and tolerant view.

Mr. Allen is a master of description. His war-time Philadelphia is graphic; his pictures of the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley exhaust superlatives. Even the pains and horrors of war effect a heart-catching beauty of terror and destiny.

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—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
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Branch Library

(*Continued from page* 142)

revealed that our boys and girls are not fickle in their tastes. *Alice in Wonderland* won the most votes and *Pinocchio* ran second. Adults in the teaching profession are curious about what stories of Negro children are available and which are most popular but the children themselves show no evidence of special interest in racial literature. Few outstanding Negro books have been written for children but some of the titles we recommend, which incidentally are liked by children are *Araminta* and *Jerome Anthony* by Eva Knox Evans, *Kintu: A Congo Adventure* by Elizabeth Enright, *Mom Du Jos: A Story of a Little Black Doll* by Erick Berry (pseud.), *You Can't Pet a Possum* and *Sad-Faced Boy* by Arna Bontemps, and *Zeke* by Mary Ovington.

Negro Literature Featured

The adult collection of Negro literature attracts attention throughout the city from students of race relations, teachers and social workers, but too few of our colored people show interest in the non-fiction classes, though the long delayed publication of the latest Negro Year Book concerned many. Such praiseworthy works as Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction* and Herndon's *Let Me Live* are too quickly forgotten. Happily, Woodson's and Brawley's histories, James Weldon Johnson's titles, Alain Locke's aging *New Negro* and Paul Lawrence Dunbar's works continue to be in perennial demand.

Particular pains are taken to add at least one copy of every worthwhile new book and to direct attention to it. Two years ago an effective window exhibit on *Negro Americans, What Now?* brought a gracious response from its author who was so pleased with a snapshot of the display that he asked for a second one. Newspapers and periodicals such as: "The Cleveland Call and Post," "The Cleveland Eagle," "The Cleveland Guide," "The Gazette" and "The Pittsburgh Courier" are always in use and have regular readers waiting for the latest copies to arrive. "THE CRISIS" and "Opportunity" are particularly popular but, strange to say, many who come in every day to read the papers and periodicals never register nor take out books although they spend many hours poring over the magazines.

Seeking the enlightened opinion of leaders and tried readers, the library has also endeavored to invite outstanding visitors to serve the cause of books and libraries by whatever means they could suggest. Their courteous cooperation has frequently been of helpful consequences. Visits from Dr. Carter Woodson and George Schuyler have stimulated the use of the Negro collection, and the gift of a treasured copy of William Pickens' *Bursting Bonds* increased interest in the work of the N.A.A.C.P. If the branch librarian were invited to make an appeal for a library gift, as fortunate librarians sometimes are, one of her requests, the donation of a set of Charles Waddell Chesnutt's works, would be gratifying to many Clevelanders. Though it is to be hoped that all of Mr. Chesnutt's works will soon be in print again it is nevertheless to be expected that a branch library in the very neighborhood where Mr. Chesnutt lived should feel an urgency to own all of the works of its native author, the William Dean Howells of the Negro novel.

A feature of interest in library circles all over the world is the Gaylord Electrical Charging Machine, a new mechanical device for charging books with greater speed and accuracy. One of these machines was installed at Cedar when it opened. One of the library's features, even its attractive children's room, its inviting home-like atmosphere, or its timely exhibits and displays equal the appeal of its variety of books and its variety of borrowers. In addition to the Adult Negro Collection the library has more than 9800 books selected from special reviews and chosen to suit the needs of the community's children, young people and "general public." A greater concession to "popular" taste would undoubtedly insure greater book circulation, but the general high standard maintained in the system as a whole is jealously guarded here, too.

(*Continued on next page*)

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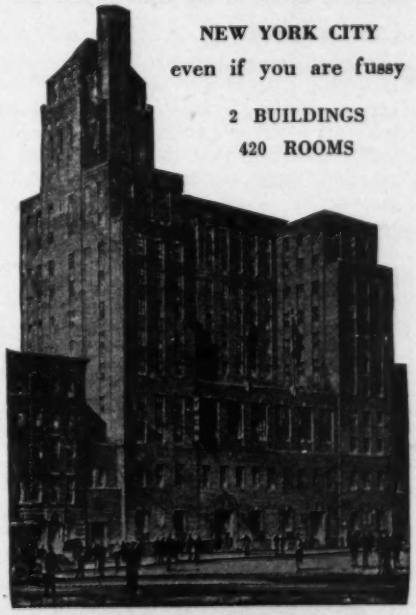

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Mrs. Phillips, wife of Bishop Charles Henry Phillips, an active church and club-worker, orders most of her reading material at Cedar and her habit of acknowledging any help given her and of mentioning the source of her information has influenced groups she addresses. Frequently people come to us because Mrs. Phillips has said, "The Cedar Library will be glad to help you." Her spirit is typical of the ideal civic response of the borrower to his library and represents that of Dr. Armen G. Evans and others who are similarly thoughtful.

By nature and necessity democratic institutions, public libraries can be ideal centers for the promotion of interracial understanding and good will provided that a sufficient body of people is interested in their support—support in this instance having an unusual significance, the utilization of an opportunity. The active support of some of our patrons leads us to believe that a growing body will follow and that there is already a positive reply to the query, "Negro Americans, What Does a Library Mean to You?"

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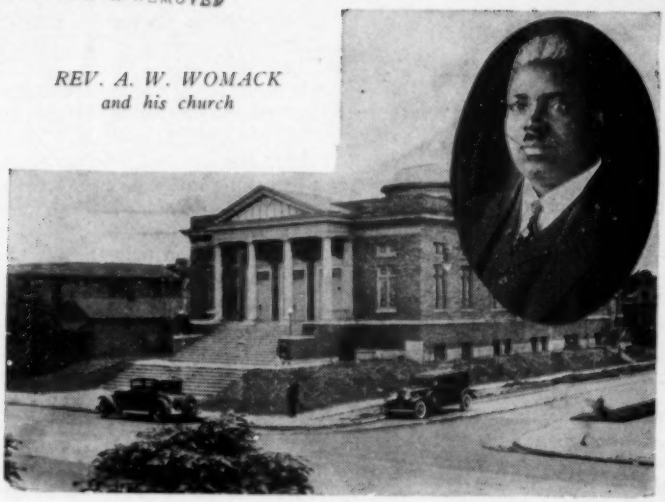

One hundred of the leading citizens of Indianapolis tendered a testimonial banquet to the Rev. A. W. Womack on April 26 in appreciation of the fine public service he has given the community. Dr. Womack is the pastor of the Greater Phillips C.M.E. Temple. He is also president of the Indianapolis branch of the N.A.A.C.P. His contributions to the civic life of Indianapolis and surrounding communities are well-known throughout the country.

F. B. Ransom, president of the Mme. Walker Manufacturing Co., was chairman of the Committee of One Hundred. Many prominent people from every walk of life were present at the banquet. The occasion was a tribute to a man who has spent thirty-six years in the pastorate and an even greater number of years working in the interest of his race.

On Debating Team

For the first time in recent years, Ohio State university has a Negro member on its debating team in the person of William A. Colwell. Mr. Colwell is president of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, a member of the Forum club and of Koada Council, and is active in the Columbus branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

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